CDXC CHILTERN DX CLUB The UK DX Foundation

Newsletter

May 1995 CDXC - The UK DX Foundation Issue 95

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DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: JUNE 7th (LATE NEWS JUNE 21st)

CHILTERN DX CLUB - *The UK DX Foundation* - Aims and Objectives

From the Constitution: ***"The aim of the Club will be to promote excellence in HF operating, particularly DXing, through mutual assistance and by encouraging support of DXpeditions, the issue of achievement awards, or whatever other means is deemed to be appropriate"***

From the Prospectus: ***"CDXC caters for amateurs with an interest in competitive activity on the HF bands (DXing, contesting, award chasing, etc.)"***

Membership: Membership of CDXC is open to any amateur or SWL who has 100 DXCC countries confirmed on the HF bands. New members must be proposed by at least two club members.

Subscriptions: The annual subscription is currently set at £12.00 for UK members, and £17.00 for overseas members. The subscription for new members joining between 1st January and 30th June is 50% of the annual subscription. Subscriptions become due on July 1st in each year, and should be sent to the Treasurer (address above).

Newsletter: This newsletter is published six times per year. Articles for publication should be sent to the Newsletter Editor (address above) by the published deadline. *Please note that opinions expressed in the Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor or of the Committee.*

SHACKLOG 4.2

QUALITY LOGGING SOFTWARE BY G3PMR

Several hundred copies of SHACKLOG are in frequent use in many DXCC countries around the world and in all continents including Antarctica.

SHACKLOG is used by a wide range of HF and VHF operators, from top DXers to newly licensed 'A' and 'B' operators, from IOTA hunters to VHF square collectors, and from ATV operators to SWLs. SHACKLOG is rapidly becoming the value for money logging program of preference.

WHAT THE REVIEWERS SAY

G0GSZ, PW May 1993: "It's the most powerful logbook I've ever used"

G0GSZ, PW May 1993: "I'm only sorry that I have insufficient space here to do justice to this incredible program"

G3XTT, HRT November 1993: "SHACKLOG does everything you would expect of a full featured logging program. I cannot do justice here to all its facilities"

G3XTT, HRT November 1993: "All in all, I can heartily recommend SHACKLOG"

G3PJT, RADCOM January 1995: "SHACKLOG can be recommended as an excellent general purpose logging program"

G3PJT, RADCOM January 1995: "It (SHACKLOG) has clearly been developed by active HF amateurs as many of the features evoke the thought "*That's really useful*""

That was SHACKLOG 3. SHACKLOG 4 is better! SHACKLOG 4.2 is better still!!

SHACKLOG + IOTA DIRECTORY DATABASE + SAM-I - the ideal suite for IOTA enthusiasts - see March News Letter for details.

Coming soon - SAM-I v1.1 with direct interface to IOTA members software - see Page 38 of this Newsletter.

WHAT THE USERS SAY

"It's brilliant" "I'm impressed"

"SHACKLOG has really added a new dimension to the hobby"

"I continue to use SHACKLOG with joy"

"It's a great help when sorting QSLs for awards, and a pleasure to use"

"SHACKLOG has more than proved its worth" "As a time saver, it's first class"

"I would like to say how much I like your program"

"Thank you for a wonderful program"

"I find SHACKLOG an excellent program"

"It all seems rather impressive"

"I must congratulate you on a wonderful piece of amateur radio software"

"The log printouts and QSL labels are just great" "SHACKLOG is working beautifully"

"The package performs admirably"

"Just been talking to Bill, N4AR and he is over the moon with SHACKLOG"

"SHACKLOG is the *only* logging program that I've seen that I'm prepared to use.! - its so easy"

"I consider SHACKLOG to be excellent value for money"

"I find SHACKLOG superb. Thank you for making Amateur Radio all the more enjoyable"

"Yours is the third logging package that I have reviewed, and I can safely say that it is by far the most comprehensive and impressive."

The new facilities (*of 14*) will enhance an already excellent program"

"Congratulations on an excellent program"

For full details of SHACKLOG, SAM-I, and the IOTA database, send SASE to G3PMR - address on front cover. For demo copy, enclose formatted disk.

CONTENTS

EDITORIAL

Alan Jubb, G3PMR

Hello to all readers. I guess I must be one of the few CDXC members who didn't work the recent BS7H DXpedition! We had house guests for the duration of the operation, who were fairly demanding on our time. In the odd moments that I was able to grab in the shack, BS7H was either working by numbers, and had just passed three, or was working the US. The most frustrating thing was that I managed to grab three hours in the shack on the Saturday evening, to find BS7H belting in on 20m CW, but only working US stations. They were a surprisingly good signal running barefoot to a vertical - shows the benefit of a perfect ground plane! Oh, well there will be another time I guess, although the ARRL has just announced a change to the DXCC rules to include a "minimum size requirement for islands" The bottom line is that islands considered for DXCC status must be habitable (that means sleeping and cooking capability, I believe) and must consist of a piece of land of not less than 10,000 sq. ft in area. How that affects the two Scarborough Reef operations remains to be seen, but it is likely to discourage future operations, I would have thought. The full text of the announcement may be found later in the Newsletter.

Like a few others, I have had problems with antennas since the winter storms. As a result, I have been restricted to a what is effectively a dipole whilst trying to obtain a new centre piece for my Cushcraft A3S. It appears to be nigh on impossible to buy aluminium tubing in the UK which is a sliding fit on the next size. However, all being well I will have the beam in operation again in time for the ZL8 DXpedition in May. I was extremely sorry to hear of the disaster which struck Ian G4LJF's tower and beams in the storms, but was apalled to see some of the mail on the Cluster concerning this. Whatever one's views on the subject, the PacketCluster network is not the place to air them. The system is intended to be used for the passing of DX information, not sniping at one's fellow amateurs - let us not forget that.

Even with the dipole, I managed to work the Conway Reef DXpedition for an all time new one. Having examined the cluster spots for the first two days of operation, I determined that the optimum time for a QSO appeared to be mid morning, so the next day I took a couple of hours off work. After half a dozen calls without success, I realised the amplifier was not in circuit, and snagged 3D2CU first call once it was in the signal path - illustrates the benefit of an amplifier, hi!

The 1995 IOTA Contest will be with us again in July, and the rules are published elsewhere in this Newsletter, as are the results of the 1994 contest. As last year, I would ask all those planning an island trip for the contest to let me know details in time for publication in the July Newsletter. Talking of contests, you will find that Ken, G0ORH's *Advanced Contest Information* piece has been considerably expanded - I hope you like it! Ken would be very pleased to get feed back on this, together with ideas for future improvements.

It's nearly the end of another CDXC year, and that means it's Annual Review Meeting time. You will find full details of the ARM elsewhere in the Newsletter. I hope we will get a much improved turnout this year, and expect we will now that is being coupled to a social event. I look forward to meeting many members there, and especially some of our newer members whom I have not had the opportunity to meet before. I'd like to thank all those members who came and had a chat at Pickett's Lock in March - it was good to see you all. I also hope to meet many CDXC members at the GB7YDX DX Convention in York on May 13th.

The start of a new CDXC year also means that subscriptions are due on July 1st. The subscription is £12.00 for UK members, and £17.00 for overseas members. I would encourage all members to pay by standing order, as this makes it easier for the Treasurer, and also makes it easier for members to make renewals in future years. You should find enclosed with this Newsletter a standing order application form - please use it!

A number of newer members will not yet have received their CDXC badges. We plan to make these up shortly, and they will be available for collection at the ARM. Those not collected at the ARM will be mailed with the July Newsletter on July 10th. Members attending the ARM will have the opportunity of collecting their July Newsletter there. Badges have also not yet been made for members whose Christian names are unknown to us. Please check the membership list, and if only your initials are shown, please let G3NUG have your Christian name so that a badge can be made up for you.

This edition of the Newsletter turned in to a bit of a nightmare to plan and produce. By the deadline for input (April 7th), I had very little to publish, and, at that time, could not see the Newsletter being more than sixteen pages long! However, all turned out well in the end - this issue is in fact the biggest to date, although it doesn't have quite the number of real DX articles as usual. My grateful thanks are due to all those who responded for my plea for more input on PacketCluster.

As QSL Manager for GB10TA & GB301OTA these last three years, I have accumulated literally thousands of incoming QSL cards. I have no use for these, and can see no reason to hang on to them. More importantly, they are taking up valuable space in my shack! I therefore offer them to anyone who wishes to take them off my hands. I shall consign them to the dustbin at the end of May if no interest has been shown by then. I have volunteered to be QSL Manager again this year (don't know what the call sign will be yet), and will also be responsible for the operating rota outside the Convention weekend. Members who wish to operate this special call sign from their own station should get in touch - first come first served!

Well, that's about it for this time. My thanks are due to all contributors, to G3NUG and XYL Trish, who did some of the last minute typing, to *The Times, DXNS, and QRZDX*, and to G3TMA and G4PFF.

73 Alan

PRESIDENT'S PIECE

ROGER Balister, G3KMA

I was very interested to see latest news by Vincent Denecker, G0LMX in DXNS 1663 on Bob Schmieder's (KK6EK) forthcoming operation in September to Easter Island and Salas y Gómez Island. (*Ed: See CDXC Newsletter, January 1995 for full details*) Others better qualified than I will no doubt be commenting in detail about the innovative plans for QSLing while the operation is still hitting the bands. How this works out will be fascinating to see.

It's the link up between amateur radio and the scientific community which caught my attention. There have always been joint expeditions but relatively few in the past were planned as such. Often it just happened that a scientist on the team was an amateur. He may or may not have been a DXer, many weren't, but he did his best during his free hours to be active on the air. The impact varied accordingly.

What we are now seeing is the growth of joint expeditions with significant participation of both interests. One party on its own may not be able to raise sufficient finance but two parties by pooling fund-raising resources are making that impossible dream come true.

In the past there may have been perhaps 50 DXCC countries in the world where a joint amateur radio/scientific expedition might make sense. Now with the growth in the IOTA programme the scope for such operations has expanded enormously. Many of the IOTA groups consist of remote and uninhabited islands which seldom see human life. As it is, such operations which take place are often very short to reduce transportation costs and logistical problems. There may be a brief report in the DX bulletins afterwards but little else. The opportunity for some form of scientific research is invariably lost.

An amateur was asked recently when enquiring about permission to operate from a remote Australian island "Could you tag some turtles for us?" This reminds us that these days Government Departments often cannot justify funds for transportation on low priority visits. Maybe though they would be able to make some contribution if an amateur was going anyway. Someone said to me not so long ago that just going round the island counting empty beer-cans is a form of scientific research. Taking soil samples, doing some "met work", counting different breeds of bird, crab, or, if you are lucky, alligator might be useful to the experts back home. An up to date report taken ten years after the last previous visit could be of major interest.

I doubt if Salas y Gómez Island, some 217 miles from Easter Island, would ever have rated an IOTA operation. Now it will get one and the scientific community will get a major contribution as well in the field of research.

Next time you glance at the IOTA Directory to find a "way out" holiday destination, bear in mind that a really difficult island might indeed be possible if you publicised your plans. Knowing who to get in touch with is obviously a critical consideration. If you need landing permission, where better to start than at the department which gives it? And to the IOTA guys who have been trying to get on islands where there appear to be insuperable restrictions, why not try and find out when the next visit is scheduled, whether it be for official, scientific or environmental purposes, and see if there is any possibility of one or two amateurs going along to help with the research (tagging turtles!) or providing communications support?

The IOTA programme has opened up the way to a whole new range of possible opportunities. Let's not miss them.

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

Neville Cheadle G3NUG

We have made some real progress recently in our procedures for dealing with requests for DXpedition funds. I seem to have got the job of co-ordinating the activities of CDXC, the IOTA Committee and the RSGB DXpedition fund with regard to funding.

Members will be interested to know that approximately half of the CDXC income is ear-marked for funding DXpeditions; the remainder of our income goes almost entirely on the production and distribution of this Newsletter. This means that we can allocate between £1,200 and £1,500 each year to deserving DXpeditions.

The RSGB DXpedition fund is generated from the proceeds of the raffle at the RSGB HF Convention and last year the raffle produced approximately £1000.

The IOTA funds are less than the above and arise as a result of IOTA's sponsorship by Yaesu. Generally, IOTA is funding the smaller IOTA DXpeditions to rare or unnumbered island groups, whereas the CDXC and RSGB funds go to DXpeditions of a more general nature.

Whenever we receive a request for funding I now write to the DXpedition team leader requesting information about the following:

- Equipment including linears
- Antennas, particularly for 40M and the LF bands
- The team of operators (CW and SSB)
- Operating procedures including the use of split frequency

I also ask whether the operation will be for a minimum of 48 hours and if there will be round-the-clock operation. I seek confirmation that the DXpedition will answer bureau cards, that the CDXC and RSGB contributions will be acknowledged and that our logos will be printed on QSL cards.

I then make a recommendation to members of the various Committees using the cluster and am pleased to report that I get prompt responses.

We have recently agreed to contribute £100 to assist Barry Fletcher ZS1FJ/G4MFW who will be activating the Kermadecs from 5/15 May. There are further details in the Letters section of this Newsletter, and on Page 52.

I hope that many members managed to work 3D2CT or 3D2CU on Conway Reef. You will remember that we made a contribution to this DXpedition. They seemed to have excellent openings on 20M with some reasonable openings on 40M. There was at least one very good but short opening on 17M using the CDXC WARC bands antenna.

The landing on Conway sounded like a real horror show -- there will be a write up in a later Newsletter.

The planning of the 1995 HF Convention is now well underway. Do note the dates of 8/9/10 September again at the Beaumont near Windsor. We are delighted to have Peter Kirby G0TWW, RSGB General Manager, and his team at HQ, on board. The Society will be focusing on marketing the Convention, processing bookings and liaising with the Beaumont.

We have already firmed up ten lectures. These are:

- "The DXCC Programme" by the ARRL, (we hope that QSL card checking will be possible).
- "Contest Operating For Beginners" by Chris Burbanks G3SJJ.
- "Sunspots And Their Impact On Propagation" by Martin Atherton,

G3ZAY.

- "Bhutan And All That" by Jim Smith VK9NS.
- "160M Propagation And Antennas" by Neil Smith G4DBN.
- "Computers In The Shack" by Don Field G3XTT, an update of last year's excellent talk.
- "The Camel Trophy" by Colin Thomas G3PSM.
- Three sessions on IOTA including a new presentation on IOTA for new comers entitled "IOTA -- What's It All About?"

Other lectures planned include:

- LF antennas,
- Amateur radio on Internet,
- Lectures for novices,
- HF equipment,
- Tower safety,
- DXpedition stories, possibly including Conway Reef,
- Data modes,
- Cluster workshop,
- Operating procedures.

All the planning is going well and if any Member has any suggestions about the programme or about the event generally please do get in touch with me or David Evans G3OUF, Chairman of the HF Committee.

There will also be a major contest station participating in the WAE SSB Contest -- this should be really exciting to see. We are hoping that large screens will be available for the computer terminals so that we can all see how it's done.

Bookings form should be available in about one month's time. Please contact Marcia Brimson, RSGB HQ, Lambda House, Cranbourne Road, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 3JE.

We are asked from time to time whether CDXC can provide a lecturer for a club meeting, show or convention. Generally, we can choose the specific topic. e.g. wire antennas for DXing, DXpedition stories, etc. If any Member is prepared to help with these requests, please do get in touch with me. At the moment, we are seeking a lecturer for the Bletchley Show on 17/18 June. Most of the Committee is away for this week-end.

There are two notes about the CDXC goodies elsewhere in this Newsletter. Let's have your views please on a CDXC club tie (see Page 12). We need to order a substantial number to achieve a worthwhile price so we would welcome some feedback. Sales of goodies also help to boost our funds, they are really good value and good quality. Prices, including postage and packing, are given on Page 29.

Could I also encourage Members to take out standing orders for subscription renewals. Mike G4PFF, our Treasurer, had to spend an enormous amount of time last year chasing up subs. The use of standing orders makes life so much more straight forward for everyone. Please have a look at Mike's enclosed note.

And so to IOTA. The new IOTA computer-based application system is now fully operational and we are all delighted with it. We have also made a significant upgrade to the checkpoint and central database system. This new system is, we believe, one of the most advanced systems of its type in the world and is described on Page 38.

We have also recently completed an eight page colour brochure about IOTA that has been funded by Yaesu. This will be distributed with all Yaesu HF equipment shipments and will be available without charge at many HF Conventions and HamFairs throughout the world. Copies are available from me on receipt of a 38p stamped self-addressed C4 envelope or US$1 for overseas Members.

Finally, don't forget the Annual Review Meeting and Summer Get Together here on July 8th. This year this will be a business as well as a social occasion and I look forward to welcoming Members to our home here in Felden.

73 Neville

JOTTINGS OF THE SECRETARY*Dave Mann G0HXN*

First things first, well done Emma, well written. I should imaging there will be a few red faces dotted around the country, yet another example of the politics of envy. If I might quote from a News Letter of December 1992, from a letter by Gail Stevens G0GRK:

"*I wonder who will be the first novice to work 100 countries and gain membership of CDXC' ?*"

We know don't we.

We were treated down this part of the world to yet another great outpouring of a typically British disease when poor old Ian (G4LJF) lost his tower in a recent squall which went through his QTH a few weeks ago. Some of the comments on the Cluster were downright abusive, but many I might add were very supportive and sympathetic to Ian's predicament. What the critics forgot is that Ian introduced the Cluster into the UK, and like all the Sysops put in a large amount of their own capital so that you and I (and the critics) can get pleasure out of our chosen hobby. I suppose in all walks of life we will always find that there will always be somebody who has got a better car, holidays, job, etc. etc. so what! I have been round to Ian's QTH several times and at have always admired the huge array in the field next door to the house, but at least his shack was as untidy as mine. Obviously it would be nice to have such an array, or have the equipment as some of our colleagues have, but the enjoyment that I get out of Amateur Radio is probably the same as theirs. I suppose that working in a Psychology Department I see many many people who have hang-ups such as this, it just plain old fashioned JEALOUSY. But at least it's treatable. Perhaps we should have counselling session on 80 meters for keyers, policemen, and those with inadequate set-ups. One thing I will say I have always found, especially in CDXC, that those who have, are happy to help out those who have not. There are not many groups of people in the world today who can say that. Hopefully Ian you will soon have things repaired and be back to your usual envious state. Well that's got that off my chest, I suppose the only other thing to complain about was the Conway Reef DXpedition, the usual chaos coming out of Europe, perhaps I should apply for a grant and research the Psychology of the Radio Amateur, having just finished reading the Psychology of the Motorist (under 25) for which there was a grant of 100,000 pounds given, I might then be able to afford a new tower with a log periodic.

If I might re-quote again from one of our earlier News Letters (Sep 1992)

"*DX is the embodiment*
of everything that's excellent
It has no kind of fault or flaw
DXers always draw the looks of awe"

Professor Cass

PS. DON'T FORGET THE A.R.M. BOOK THE TIME OFF NOW. SHOULD BE A GOOD DAY. (EVEN IF IT IS TO TALK ABOUT OR EVEN HELP PUT UP NEVILLE's NEW ARRAY !!!!!!)

73 and Gd Dx Dave

LETTERS

Dear Alan

Derek Cox, G3KHZ raised an interesting point on packet last week when he said he had received an air mail from Japan stamped with a Y110 stamp, presumably the current rate. This morning, there are about Y85 to US$1. It will no doubt settle down. It makes you think! 73 John, GW3ARS.

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Extract from letter to G0HXN:

Thank you, Dear Dave

For accepting yours truly as a new member of CDXC. I am really very pleased to join CDXC and to receive the valuable DX infos.

Furthermore I was amazed to find another new member of DL: my good friend Franz Langner DJ9ZB, "First DXpeditioners Club".

It's a kind of "joint venture" though it was NOT co-ordinated, but such is LIFE!

Another big thank you for informing yours truly of the means of ordering your vfb famous QSL cards. I just asked Ian G4LJF for some details with a view to ordering 2000 QSL cards.

Before closing my letter I want to quote a motto of CONFUCIUS, presumably (I'm rather sure) spiritual precursor of DX hams:

> *"I live in a very small house but my windows look out on a very large world"*

Mni tnx and 73

Carl - DL9SC.

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Dear Alan

First I would like to say a big welcome to all our new members and I am happy to see our membership grow not just in the UK but from outside as well. Well done to Emma on her achievements in radio and on her first 100 countries. What would any hobby or club be without its younger enthusiasts - down the drain I believe! I have seen it happen with a club in which my son and I were both members, but not now. Now they are begging for new members and youngsters, but it's too late. But before anyone jumps on the bandwagon on what I have said, it was a hobby far removed from radio.

On to something different. My wife and I have not long been back from a stay with LX1DM Marc (*Ed: A CDXC member*) and his family. We had a great time there even though it was short. I would like to say through our Newsletter a big thank you to Marc and family for their hospitality and for the 486 computer Marc so kindly gave to me. I can now keep a good upkeep of his log when the QSLs come in. So, if anyone works LX1DM, pass them to me as I am his manager.

Thanks also go to LX1SP Lou, who gave me a TNC2 with the words "*I ate packet - ave eet*", hi! So, with a bit of luck I hope soon to be on packet as well.

I have had some time off work, and on switching on the old Sommerkamp, I found she has now to throw in the towel. So a trip to Pickett's Lock was made, and after a nice chat with Mr. Lynch, and explaining what had happened to the old girl, showing Martin the inside of my empty pockets except the dreaded card, we came to an agreement, I signed the paper work and there and then Martin gave me a nice little IC735. Thanks Martin - I am now back on the bands. Now how do I tell Marion when the first payment comes in, hi!

Well, it's been an overwhelming start to the year for me, and it certainly restores my faith

in human nature. As Dave, G0HXN, said in the March 1995 issue, "it takes a bit of a battering".

Vy 73, Cliff G0MMI.

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Hello Alan,

CDXC members might like to know that SD (Super-Duper), my contest logging program, is available for downloading from my Internet Web pages at

http://www.iol.ie/~okanep/

This version is good for DX entrants to the ARRL DX Contest and for DX entrants to RSGB contests.

SD users, and there are several hundred in the UK alone, can download the latest country and area multiplier files and see what's new in SD - the current version is 7.00 (March 1995).

I used SD to get world first in the mixed mode, low power section of the 1991 ARRL 10 Meter contest and second place in the 1992 event.

Hope you'll have a look at my pages (Netscape browser is recommended) and give them a mention in the CDXC Newsletter. (*Ed: I only have email capability, but hope other members will look at Paul's pages*)

The 1995 version of Super-Duper for IOTA (SDI), my freeware IOTA contest logger, is available from:

1. CompuServe: The file is SDI702.ZIP in Software Library 6 of the Hamnet forum - keyword IOTA.

2. World Wide Web:
   http://www.iol.ie/~okanep/

3. Anonymous ftp from Ireland On-Line:
   ftp.iol.ie The file is sdi.zip in directory /users/okanep

4. Anonymous ftp from the SimTel Software Repository
   ftp://oak.oakland.edu/SimTel/msdos/hamradio/sdi700.zip

SDI was used by the top scoring stations in both the 1993 and 1994 events (CS4B and CS5C).

73, Paul EI5DI

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Extract from letter to G3NUG from ZS1EJ/G4MFW, in response to Neville's standard letter to requests for funding - see Chairman's Chat for details.

Dear Neville

How kind of you to fax me. Here is the info! I have to fund the transport cost of the scientific expedition to make this possible as I had been told that radio activities are now BANNED, and that by the head of DOC. The scientific side is authentic and partly commissioned by Cambridge.

I am using two rigs and a 600w linear IC2KL, Cushcraft A3S, Caroline Windom on all bands 160-15m, other wire antennas. QRG 14260 SSB, listening up, split. I am the only operator as this is all they will permit. I may do some limited CW, but am not proficient.

I will beam to Northern Europe at specific times. Please recommend to me the times and beam directions. It is my objective to serve the interests of Europe and South Africa as well as Asia and USA, but the former regard ZL8 as very scarce.

I just hope the others will be successful and I wish them luck. Our skipper is a New Zealander and an integral part of the scientific expedition.

Barry

Hello Alan,

As a new member I'm not sure if anyone would be interested in this or not! It's really just a piece of info.

If any of the members have seen the Flexi-mast that Waters & Stanton sell and considered it, it really does make an excellent mast and is very portable, no-problem as hand luggage on a plane (so I've been told). However the price does seem a little excessive for a piece of fibreglass at least I thought so and was in fact proved correct when visiting a local fishing equipment shop (another expensive hobby!), and saw the very same mast/fishing pole for less than half price!! (*Ed: QRK £33*) Needless to say I immediately purchased one and checked their stock level. Now if I can just work out where I could try it out I'd go back buy another FIVE and make a three ele. beam for 7Mhz. Ah but dreams are indeed wonderful

73 de Ian G0KRL@GB7DXM

AN 'XYL's VIEW'

Trish Cheadle

Well, here we are again -- Easter and things don't seem to change much, day in, day out. I suppose a small lottery win of ten pounds changed it for me -- I bought Neville his Easter Egg and it didn't cost me anything!

We were watching a show on television on Saturday evening, something about a couple getting married -- so I said to Neville "How much is a licence these days?" He looked up from the paper and said "What, a ham radio licence?" "Forget it!", I said.

It's Springtime -- when a young man's fancy turns to other things -- except of course if you are a Ham Radio enthusiast!

The word 'erection' was used in the house this week. Well, the birds have gone off their food and the dogs are feeling broody. Quite frankly, I must admit that once the dawn chorus starts I feel like getting up and making an early start. Sure enough, I was right!. Spot on 4am I can hear the slight noise coming through the window -- or somewhere. The dulcet tones of G3NUG G3NUG CQ CQ CQDX. Oh well, it is Easter. I'd warrant a guess that if I'd been up early every day -- he would still have beaten me to it.

Anyway, back to the erection. We were out at the weekend cutting the lawn for the first time this year. We obviously would have had to go around all the guys -- but Neville asks me to do half the garden only. "Half the garden?" I said, "Aren't we having guests?" "Oh yes!" he says, but next week I hope to build and erect the new beam. When I take the old one down to put the new one up it will be easy for you as you won't have to negotiate any of the guys. "How considerate!" I said.

I did mention babies in my last report -- I didn't realise that the gestation period was so short!

To change the subject -- do you ever have the sense of *deja vu* when watching the TV. Suddenly, half way through a film -- Neville will say -- I'm just off to see if I can hear him.

Who's him!!!! -- and does he come out at about the same time every night -- or is that another him?

I never get to know who HIM is -- but the face is glowing once more, and to me, that means he's made the contact -- he's obviously spoken to him. Until the following night when he gets up and says -- "Excuse me Darling, I'm just going to see if I can hear him."

Enjoy the Spring -- what's left of it.....

EU008 COLONSAY, ORONSAY

The Newport Amateur Radio Society will sign GM4EZW from the island of Colonsay for one week commencing the Friday preceding SSB Field Day for a period of one week (*Ed: I make that Sep 1st-7th*). When tidal conditions permit, they will also operate from Oronsay, which is connected to Colonsay at low tide.

The group will be QRV on 10-80m, excluding WARC bands, and also on VHF. The main HF mode will be SSB, with some CW a possibility. There is an outside chance of RTTY.

QSL this operation direct to GW0FXC, or via bureau to GW0ARK.

CLUB TIES

Ian Shepherd, G4LJF

Your Committee has been considering having a CDXC tie manufactured. The proposal is for a dark blue tie in either silk or polyester with an embroidered silver logo. I am in consultation with a tie manufacturer in Hong Kong, but the major problem at the moment is that they will not deal in trivial quantities. What we need to know is if you would be interested in buying a tie in order to decide whether we should go ahead with the idea or not.

Envisaged prices are £8.00 for a silk tie and £5.00 for a polyester tie. We shall only be able to order a quantity of one type. Please let me know urgently whether you would be interested in a tie, and in which type. Note, this is not and ad, or the time to order. It is just to give the Committee an idea of what you might want in the future.

73 de Ian, G4LJF

ANNUAL REVIEW MEETING

The 1995 Annual Review Meeting will be held on Saturday July 8th at G3NUG's QTH. Directions to Neville's QTH follow this item. The ARM is a short business meeting, at which the Committee for 1995/96 will be elected, a review of 1994/95 activities takes place, and members are able to raise items for discussion and action by the new Committee. All nominations for the new Committee, and items for discussion should be sent to the Secretary, Dave, G0HXN, by July 2nd. All Committee posts are up for re-election.

This is your chance to influence and contribute to CDXC's direction. Do come, and bring the family!

This year, the ARM is to be combined with a social function. Neville, G3NUG, and XYL Trish are kindly offering to host CDXC members plus XYLs/partners and their families. There will be a barbecue party, and for those wishing a break from radio, Trish and Neville have organised swimming, tennis and croquet, so bring appropriate gear! Trish and Neville have also very generously offered to provide the food. Would guests please bring their own drinks - soft drinks, beer or wine. No spirits please.

Timetable: ARM start at 12.00 sharp, to finish by 13.00 sharp, with BBQ etc.. to follow. Please arrive in good time so that the business aspects of the day can be dealt with promptly.

Please advise Dave, G0HXN if you are planning to attend, and let him know numbers.

The July Newsletter will be published one week later than usual, and will be available at the ARM for attendees. Newsletters for those not attending will be mailed July 10th.

DIRECTIONS to G3NUG QTH

Venue for ARM

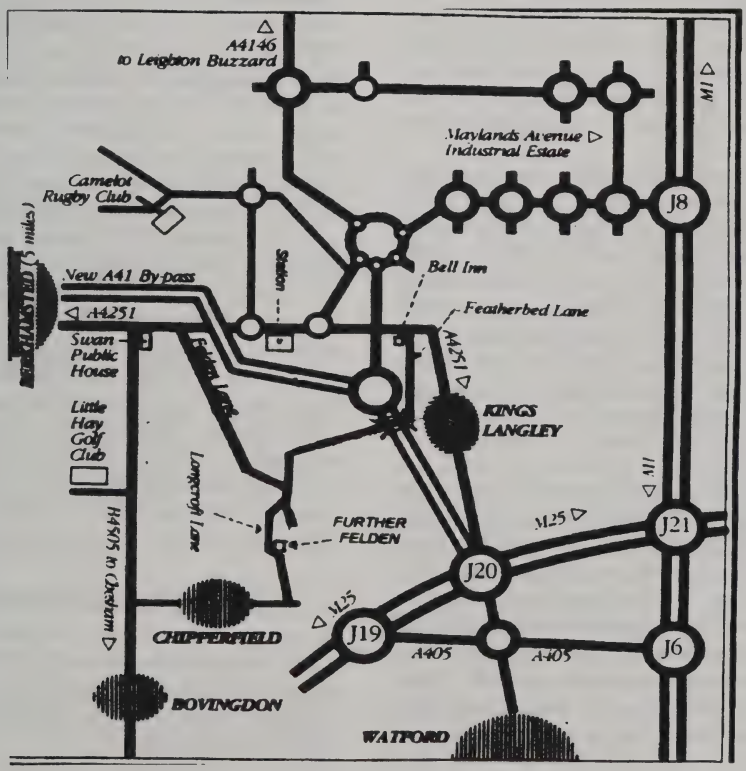
Trish and Neville Cheadle. Address: Further Felden, Longcroft Lane, Felden, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, HP3 0BN. Tel 01442 62929

Directions

The map below, which is not to scale, shows the directions to Further Felden from junction 8 of the M1 and from Junction 20 of the M25.

From junction 8 of the M1 follow the road to the centre of Hemel Hempstead (the magic roundabout). Turn *left* and take the second exit. At the traffic lights filter left (A4251). After about 400 yards turn right immediately after the Bell Inn up Featherbed Lane. After about one mile you reach a small green in the middle of Felden Village. Take the second right signposted Longcroft. Further Felden is the fourth house on the left.

From junction 20 of the M25 take the new A41 by-pass to Hemel Hempstead. Take Hemel Hempstead exit and at traffic lights filter right (A4215). After about 400 yards turn right immediately after the Bell Inn up Featherbed Lane. After about one mile you reach a small green in the middle of Felden Village. Take the second right signposted Longcroft. Further Felden is the fourth house on the left.



ADVANCED CONTEST INFORMATION

Ken Chandler, G0ORH

Welcome to the *Advanced Contest Information* section of the CDXC Newsletter. There has been a change of policy in regards to the publishing of contests. From this edition, all contests rules together with other associated matters including a full results service (when available) will now be published for you in CDXC Newsletter. The Committee, in consultation with myself, now think that the CDXC contest section should carry a more fuller up to date rules service to our members than before. This change has come about because CDXC respects the needs of contesters and more importantly we hope to encourage more activity and participation in contesting in general We are now an international club and hope to attract more new members both home & abroad into our midst. By including more information and better service we hope to do just that.

Another month has passed which saw the ARRL CW and SSB contests. Band conditions were excellent especially on 80m, 15m, and 10m in both the CW & SSB sections. Those that chose to enter in the single band were not disappointed and the contact rates fairly good! However, how overall this compares with last year's ARRL I'm not sure as I'm not aware of individual entrant's band scores etc.

The RSGB's 40m CW contest is a popular event but which can be lessened due to the conditions etc. This year I'm sure I'm right in saying that propagation on 40m was good judging by the band scores that I have received. The multipliers did not reach 100, but the norm seemed to be in the high 70s - 90s. Antennas still remain variable, from simple dipoles, inverted vees, loops, and verticals all being used.

The Commonwealth (BERU) Contest in contrast was a little disappointing in that Africa and ZS's hardly showed themselves. The band conditions didn't help with extreme QSB most of the time, in fact I wondered if I had the right weekend and missed the contest altogether, such were the conditions. I think I made a big mistake by closing down at 2200 hrs for I think that the band was beginning to open up to VEs then! There may well be some suggestions that the inclusion of inter G working should be allowed next year, if only to boost the contacts, and make the contest a little more enjoyable for all participants, this I think would liven up the contest in general, obviously the points would have to be adjusted for this but it may well prove popular. What do you think? Talking to ZS1WA the other day I gather that the Commonwealth contest in Africa was not well publicised, this was confirmed later by 9J2BO who said that he enjoyed the contest very much and that he was very pleased by the many new G0 stations that he worked or heard during the contest. His only disappointment was that the presence of the ZS's and Africa in general was not apparent. His only conclusion is that the RSGB may not have advertised the contest as much around the Commonwealth! The RSGB does do a very good job indeed, but it does look like something went amiss this year! I have written to the RSGB already this year about contests in general, and there is a meeting in early April on the way contests are published and advertised in RadCom. GB5CC this year was operated by the well known DXer, GW3YDX. His comments on the contest are I'm afraid not printable, suffice to say he did make a few contacts.

Below is a list of scores that I've been sent on various contests for the past month. This is not final placing but raw scores only. You will note that these lists includes a few non-members, added so as to give an overall picture of placings etc.

RAW CONTEST SCORES

ARRL INTERNATIONAL CW & SSB DX CONTEST

Single band (CW)

G4BUE 715 47 100,815 80m G3MXJ 1034 56 173,712 40m GM3POI 1367 60 246,060 20m G3TXF 1200 57 205,200 15m

Multi band (CW)

G0ORH 1081 156 504,504 Low pwr (100) G3NKS 371 100 111,300 GW4BLE 75 44 9,900

Single band (SSB)

GW4BLE 413 41 50,799 40m GI0KOW 422 47 59,502 15m GM4FDM 1151 60 207,180 20m GI0UJG 1001 61 183,183 20m G0ORH 59 22 4,447

G3OZF 1331 184 734,712 Multi ops

RSGB 40m CW CONTEST

G3TXF 807 89 841,495 GM3POI 781 90 748,300 G0IVZ 624 87 575,505 G4ODV 621 79 535,620 G3XTT 606 75 475,125 G4BUO 525 77 415,030 GM4TMS 485 60 269,100 Multi ops G3KNU 439 63 265,545 G0ORH 239 63 141,435 8Hrs only

COMMONWEALTH CONTEST

G0IVZ 169 3125 G4ODV 159 3040 G0ORH 118 1965 GB5CC 400 Op-GW3YDX For info G3CSC 30 G0/N4AR 146 At S/Key, G3FXB's QTH

CONTEST RULES

ARI INTERNATIONAL DX CONTEST

6/7 May

Time: 2000Z-2000Z. Entry classes: single operator CW/SSB/RTTY/mixed; multi-operator single transmitter, mixed, SWL. Exchange RS(T) and three-digit serial no, starting with 001 (Italian stations will exchange signal report & two-letter province identifier). Change bands no more than once every 10 mins. Score, 10 points per QSO with I/IS0 stns. Score: 3 points per QSO with stns on different continents; 1 point per QSO with stns on the same continent. Contacts with own country count 0 points, but are good for multiplier credit. The same station may be worked on CW/SSB/RTTY, but counts only once for multiplier credit. Multipliers are the DXCC countries and Italian provinces (95 max). Awards. Final score is total points times total multipliers. Post scores within 30 days to, ARI contest Manager, PO Box 14, 27043 Broni, PV Italy.

EUROPEAN SPRINT CONTEST (CW)

20 May. See March 1995 Newsletter p11, 12, 13. Tnx Dave G4BUO.

CQ WORLD WIDE WPX (CW) CONTEST

26/27 May

Time: 0000Z-2400Z. Operate no more than 36hrs, off periods must be at least 60 minutes long and marked in the log. Entry classes: single operator multiband/single band, High power/Low power (<100 watts output) /QRP (<5 watts output); Multi-operator single transmitter, Multi-operator multi-transmitter: Multi-singles only allowed one transmitter and band during the same time period (10 mins rule); Multi-multis only allowed one transmitted signal per band. All transmitters must be located on property limits or within 500 metres. Exchange RST and three digit serial number beginning with 001. Score one point/QSO with station on same continent on the 20m, 15 & 10m bands and two points on the 40m 80 & 160m bands (exception: contacts between North American stations count two & four points/QSO, respectively). Contacts between

stations on different continents count three points on the 20m, 15m and 10m bands and six points on the 40m, 80m and 160m bands. Multipliers are the number of different prefixes worked and count once only. Prefixes are the letter-numeral combination that forms the first part of an amateur call-sign. Club competition. Awards: Logs to be received no later than July 10, 95. Address to: CQ WPX contest 76 N Broadway, Hicksville, NY 11801. Have Fun!

RSGB NATIONAL FIELD DAY

3/4 June

The General Rules, as published in the January 1995 RadCom apply. NFD is a fully portable contest. Note change to rule 4. Notification: Each group intending to compete must send details of the intended site to: D L Hill, G4IQM, 14 The Garronese, Worth, Crawley, West Sussex RH10 7YT, to arrive no later than 6 May 1995. Details must include the name and address of the person responsible for the entry; callsign/s to be used; national grid references and sufficient access information for an inspector to locate the site. Contest stationary will be sent on request.

Date and Time: From 1500UTC 3 June to 1500UTC 4 June 95.

Sections: All sections are multi-operator. Sections. Open: One transmitter and one receiver (or one transceiver) plus an additional receiver. There is no restriction on the number or type of antennas but the maximum height must not exceed 20m. Power is limited to 100W from the final stage.

Restricted: One transmitter and one receiver (or one transceiver) plus an additional receiver. One antenna only which must be a single element such as a dipole, vertical, end-fed wire etc, have not more than two elevated supports and not exceeding 11m above ground at the highest point. Power is restricted to 100W output from the final stage. Low Power: Same equipment and aerial limitations as in the restricted section. Power is further restricted to 10W DC output from the final stage.

Notes: A transceiver with a second receiver eg FT1000 counts as two receivers.

Stand-by equipment is allowed on site, but may not be connected to a power source when the main equipment is in use.

All stations are subject to an inspection by representatives of the HF Contests Committee. The inspector's brief will be to ensure that the rules and spirit of the contest are being observed. Should the inspector be unable to locate the site due to inadequate or incorrect information, the entry may be disallowed. In the event of a late change of site, it is the responsibility of the members of the group to make suitable arrangements for the inspector to find the new site. The inspector must be given immediate access to all parts of the site with the right to stay as long as desired, and the ability to return at any time during the contest. The inspector may also visit 24hrs before the start of the contest. The presence on site of any amplifier or modified commercial equipment capable of excess power may result in the entry being disallowed, and in the event of any such infringement being proven, all operators listed as being associated with the group in operating the station may be disbarred by the HF contests Committee from entering any RSGB contest for 5 years.

Frequencies and Mode: CW (A1A) only in the 1.8, 3.5, 7, 14, 21 and 28Mhz bands. Contests preferred segments as recommended by the IARU, should be used ie 3510 - 3560 and 14010 - 14070 kHz.

Exchange: RST and serial number starting from 001.

Scoring: Each station may be worked once per band, but points must not be claimed for

contacts made by a competing station with members ofits own group. Points will be scored with contacts with - Fixed stations in Europe (including UK) 2 points. Fixed stations outside Europe 3 points. Portable and mobile stations in Europe 4 points.(inc UK portable and mobile outside Europe 6 points.

Contacts on 1.8MHz and 28MHz should be scored as above and the totals multiplied by two to obtain the band score for the RSGB listing.

Address for entries: As in notification above and postmarked no later than 26 June 1995. Entries on disc are encouraged, see General rules 28.

Awards: The National Field Day Trophy to the station having the highest overall checked score, regardless of section. The Bristol trophy to the station having the highest overall checked score in the other section. The Scottish Trophy to the Scottish station having the highest overall checked score. The Gravesend Trophy to the runner-up in the section having the highest number of entries. The G6ZR Memorial Trophy to the runner-up in the other section. Certificates of merit to the stations having the three highest overall checked scores in each section. The Frank Hoosen G3YF Trophy to the station having the highest checked score on the 14MHz. Certificates of merit to the groups in each section with the highest checked scores on each band.

Check Logs: While overseas stations are not eligible to enter NFD, checklogs are very welcome. A certificate will be awarded to the overseas station in each continent whose checklog shows the most points contributed to competitors.

That's it for this Issue, my thanks go to RSGB & RadCom, QST, and CQ publications for without them much of the information would not be available.

Lastly, if you have any input,or are running a contest station that may require extra ops then let me know - I can do no more. I hope you all have a successful contesting month ahead and I look forward to perhaps hearing from you. Thanks.

Ps... I find it extremely difficult to access GB7DXI after Ian's 100ft Tower took a battering from last months high winds and ended up on the ground rather twisted I gather, so if you have any band score etc, then please telephone me with the information. Sorry for any inconvenience.

CONTESTS & RADCOM - GOOD NEWS

UK PacketCluster Network

The RSGB HF Contests Committee had an all day meeting yesterday (*Ed: 8th April*) and a number of very positive proposals were agreed.

We welcome on board new members, G4ODV, Brian from Cornwall and G0ORH, Ken from Newbury, in addition to GM4FDM, Tom from Strathclyde who joined us earlier in the year. Existing HFCC members are G3SJJ, G4IQM, G3OZF, G4BUO and G4HTD. Corresponding members are G3TMA, G4PIQ, G3OUF, G4DHF, G3UFY, G3RXP, G3KDB, G3VHB and RS32525. We are now more geographically spread than when I took the chair.

G3VHB gave a presentation of his log checking software, this was most impressive and goes a long way to relieving adjudicators of the boring task of checking through paper logs. We must encourage logs on disk as much as possible. Where entrants don't want to use computers during an event, we should encourage them to type in the log post-contest. CT, NA G3WGV LOG or EI5DI Super Duper are all OK for this.

Mike Dennison from RadCom attended and put forward the proposal of running a

RULES insert encompassing HF, VHF & ARDF rules. This is most welcome and achieves something I have personally wanted for some time. The first issue is scheduled for the September edition, meaning some hard work meeting the July deadline to ensure any changes for 1996 events are included.

Whilst this takes away some flexibility, it focuses our minds and most importantly relieves space in RadCom for more detailed contest reports. Photographs are welcome!

THIS IS A MAJOR STEP FORWARD AND HAS BEEN ACHIEVED BY CONSISTANT PRESSURE FROM THE CONTEST COMMITTEES AND YOUR SUPPORT.

A number of very good ideas were put forward to encourage participation: - including a Restricted section in various events, e.g. 7MHz CW - encouraging Guest operators - A Team section in various events - Incentives e.g. Mugs, Pens. - A Contest Video

If you can contribute in any way to these suggestions, please contact Ken, G0ORH on the Cluster. (I will be disconnected for a week or so for maintenance). The meeting was a great success, I am sure it has provided a boost to contesting in the UK.

We are indebted to Don, G3OZF, for hosting the meeting at his QTH and Chris, his wife, for providing refreshments.

Chris Burbanks G3SJJ, Chairman HF Contests Committee

FJL TO BECOME RARE?

UK PacketCluster Network

From NT2X: Slava, RX1OX/FJL, operating from Franz Joseph Land, told me of possible shutdown of the polar base there, due to budget constraints. It can happen within the next several months, and if it does, then all personnel will be removed to the mainland.

This would mean that FJL will no longer be represented on the air. Currently active from FJL are R1FJL (ex 4K2MAL) and RX1OX/FJL.

WRTC POSTPONED

UK PacketCluster Network

Ed: The World Radiosport Team Championships (WRTC), organised by the Potomac Valley Radio Club (PVRC), with the assistance of The Frankford Radio Club, were to have been held in the Washington DC area on July 8 9 1995.

The WRTC Administration announced today that the World Radiosport Team Championships, to be held in Washington, DC, will be postponed one year.

The WRTC-96 competition will be conducted within the IARU HF Radiosport Championship Contest held the second full weekend in July, 1996. The postponement will allow WRTC's financial sponsors a greater opportunity to publicise their participation well in advance of the event. Prospective competitors will also find it more convenient to make travel arrangements for 1996.

In addition, the time frame for qualifying scores for applicants will be expanded from five to six years, which includes results published during 1990-1995.

In order to have the most similar station sites possible, the field of competitors has been set to thirty teams for the 1996 event.

Questions and comments may be directed to Bill Hider, N3RR or to: Eric Scace, K3NA, Co-Chairman 10701 Five Forks Road Frederick, MD 21702-1674, USA.

CLUBS, CONTESTS & COMPLAINTS

Don Field, G3XTT

It's CDXC Newsletter time again, and I see Alan is potentially short of material. Having occupied that chair myself in the past, I sympathise, though I have to say that recent CDXC newsletters have been much more

meaty than when I was Newsletter Editor, a reflection I think of the growth of the Club and the wide range of interests now represented among the membership.

Which leads me to wonder how that wide range of talent can be tapped to draw others into HF DXing and contesting. I am currently Chairman of the Reading & District Amateur Radio Club, a club which, among its many other distinctions, has won HF NFD for the past four years. This experience has been beneficial in introducing many of its members to HF operation. SSB Field Day even more so, as even those without CW abilities can join in the fun. We have had plenty of HF-oriented talks - VK9MM by G3WGV, ZD9 by G3SXW, etc., and even G3NUG himself has been along to extol the virtues of IOTA. Truly this Club is blessed!

And, yes, these talks go down well, and members enjoy HF field day operations. But none of this seems to translate into their rushing home, putting up a reasonable HF antenna, and getting on the bands. There have been one or two honourable exceptions, but very few. I wonder whether CDXC members have any suggestions as to how to turn interest into commitment? But, perhaps, first things first. I wonder how many CDXC members (and others) who complain about the lack of new blood in DXing and contesting actually participate in their local club. Reading & District is a good example. Within our catchment area there must be one of the highest concentrations of HF DXers in the country, and yet the majority never have, and are never likely to, appeared at the Club. There are good reasons for this in some cases, but I think it a pity. I know the arguments; local clubs are VHF-oriented, packet-oriented or whatever. However, in many cases this is self-fulfilling as the HF enthusiasts stay away. There are some great exceptions of course. A good example would be what David G3OUF has been able to do with the Verulam Club, to the extent that his home station is now effectively the Verulam contest station. A lesson there perhaps? So I would like to encourage CDXC members to be involved in our local clubs, and maybe some of our enthusiasm will rub off.

CONTESTING

The Contest Reflector on Internet is, as always, a source of entertainment and controversy. Our American cousins become very agitated about issues which would pass most of us by. The latest concerns seem, as often in the past, to be a result of the geographical advantage enjoyed by stations on the East Coast. At least some of those who are geographically disadvantaged keep popping up arguing for changes in the rules of the major contests to level the playing field. One of the latest suggestions is for stations to have to QSY after a certain number of unanswered CQs on a given frequency, in order to give someone else a chance. While there may be an issue of sorts here, in terms of the way some of the big multis in particular seem to dominate the bands with their CQ calls, I'm not sure such a rule change would have the effect its proponents are wanting. It seems to me that very often the advocates of such rule changes do so out of jealousy and spite. Yes, there are those amateurs who enjoy a competitive advantage, both in contesting and DXing, whether through location, size of antenna farm, or through operating skill. But surely this is no reason to try to cut them down to size? It's a debate that seems to have sprung up here in the UK recently as well, with less well-equipped amateurs doing a bit of gloating at the expense of those who lost towers in recent storms. I venture to suggest that those who succeed, both in DXing and contesting do so primarily because they are determined to do so. It is that determination which is behind their choice of house (hilltop site, plenty of space, etc.), which drives them to install better-than-average antennas, to be on the bands

when others are enjoying other pursuits, and so on. To expect to be able to appear on the bands once a year, in CQWW, and to achieve a winning score is like Andre Agassi expecting to win Wimbledon without playing tennis at all for the rest of the year. Yet this seems to be what some of our fellow amateurs expect, and they want changes in the rules to make it possible. The nice thing in most of the major contests is that (almost) everyone can be a winner, by picking an under-represented category, for example, or by simply trying to beat last year's score.

BS7H

The whingers and whiners also appear to have been busy with BS7H. The operation didn't suit everyone. Not surprisingly, perhaps. While 12,000 QSOs is a commendable total in 80 hours of operation under adverse conditions, both physically and propagation-wise, especially when limited to 100 watts and verticals, there are many more than 12,000 would-be DXers on the bands, so a lot will have gone away disappointed. Others complained that they didn't get QSOs on the WARC bands, on RTTY, with their left foot, or whatever.

I realise it is very difficult to put ourselves in the place of the operators at the far end. In these days of instant gratification in many aspects of life, it is easy to become frustrated if we haven't made a QSO after a few minutes of calling. But in a situation like this, with a potential new country on the bands, I would venture to suggest that there could easily have been several hundred stations calling at any one time. Consider, for example, the first European opening on 20 metres. Plenty of "big gun" operators in every European country lining up to put BS7H in the log. All of them running at least a good triband Yagi and a linear. But however good the BS7H operator, he would not have been able to knock them off at better than 300 an hour or so. At this rate the pile-up would almost certainly have been growing faster than he was working them, especially after the first few packet spots appeared. So, many of even the best - equipped stations would have failed to get through during that first opening.

And so it goes on. Even from ZS9Z last year, which was by no means as rare, and on 12 metres which is not the most popular of bands, Chris ZS6EZ and I found the pile-ups unmanageable at times, and we had the advantage of a Yagi and linear, so we were loud enough to be able to control the pile-ups, and could focus quite easily on one region of the world at a time. I have to say, the CW pile-ups were much easier to run than those on SSB, mainly because it is easier to copy a single CW signal through the din than it is to make out a callsign through a wall-to-wall S9 cacophony of SSB signals. And unless you have been in that situation you simply won't be able to appreciate what I am talking about. A typical contest pile-up, even from a fairly rare spot, is nothing in comparison, because there will be many rare ones on the bands and the callers will be distributed between them. When you are on a rare DXpedition, you are the *only* game in town and *everyone* will be calling you.

If you haven't been on a DXpedition to a rare spot, then I urge you to do so as soon as possible. It's the only way truly to be able to appreciate what it's like at the sharp end. Mind you, I would recommend waiting a few years, so that you can enjoy running your pile-ups on the quiet expanses of 10 metres, rather than down in the QRN on 40, 80 or 160! And, of course, good DXpedition operators like OH2BH don't suddenly appear out of thin air. Their skill is the result of years of experience, so when you hear the novice expeditioner making a pigs ear of controlling the pile-up, don't curse and rail and put him off. Given time he may be the next OH2BH or DK7PE!

STRATEGIES FOR QRP CONTESTING

Christopher J. Page G4BUE

In many ways QRP contesting is just the same as contesting with normal power, but in other ways it is very different. This article will concentrate on those areas of contesting that, in my experience (since the late '70s), are either unique to QRP or much more important than when using higher power.

I am often asked why I contest using QRP? Why give myself the additional handicap of using less power amongst all the QRM of a major contest weekend? The answer is the same that I give people who ask questions about my main operating interest - DXing on the LF bands. Why do I struggle to work the USA West Coast and VK/ZL long path on 40 and 80 metres, when you can do it so much easier on the HF bands? The answer is *"Because it is there!"*. Ask any dedicated Top Band DXer or those using EME and you will probably receive the same answer.

Setting Goals

Setting goals for QRP contesting is very much a personal thing, depending on how ambitious you are feeling at the time! Trying to beat the score of last years winner or an existing record is no different from QRO contesting goals, but trying to see how close you can come to the QRO guy in the same class as you is unique to QRP. An example of this was the 1992 National Field Day. That year the new QRP Section was introduced and apart from the 5 watts power limit, the rules were identical to the existing 100 watts Restricted Section. In addition to trying to win the QRP Section, I wanted to see how close I could get to the winner of the Restricted Section, as the difference could be put down purely to the power difference (apart from perhaps any difference in the operating sites). The winner of the Restricted Section had 5,121 points from 1,042 QSOs and I won the QRP Class with 2,801 points from 571 QSOs. In 1993 the winner of the Restricted Section, G3GRS/P had 4,246 points from 954 QSOs whilst G3UES/P, the winner of the QRP Section had 2,614 points from 722 QSOs, and closed the gap further. The gap widened in 1994, probably due to the poorer conditions which affect QRP more than QRO.

The majority of the major contests now include a QRP class. The rules are identical to the regular class(es) except for the power limitation, which is usually 5 watts output, the standard for QRP adopted by QRP clubs world-wide. Nothing is more rewarding than to see your callsign listed in the QRP class with a higher score than a station listed in the corresponding QRO class. Believe it or not this is easier to achieve than you might think.

Many QRP contesters are also DXers. They not only go for DXCC, WAZ, WAS and the other major DX operating awards, but for the more difficult ones such as 5BDXCC, 5BWAS, etc. Contests are an excellent method of increasing your band/country/mode scores and therefore another goal could be to work ten new countries on 40 metres and/or 20 new countries on 20 metres. Obviously, your operating strategy for this type of goal would be quite differently from that if you were trying to achieve a big score in the contest.

Needless to say, your operating strategy will depend on your goals. The difficult decision of whether to try and 'run' stations or to 'search and pounce' is dealt with separately, but there are several strategies that apply whatever your goal may be. These also apply to QRO contesting, but come under the heading of being more important in QRP contesting.

Accuracy

Accuracy is absolutely essential. When your signal is several S points down from the

others and perhaps the victim of deep QSB, you cannot afford to make mistakes. On CW this not only means sending accurate code, but well spaced code. Every QRPer know Murphy's Rule No.1: *If you send your callsign three times making only one mistake, and the other station only copies your call once, it will be the one in which you made the mistake!*

Because you are a QRP station, don't make the mistake that some QRPers do and send very slow CW, thinking it helps to make up for your low power. Listen to a QRO contest station 'running' QSOs (that is working one station after the other in quick succession on the same frequency). He is working to a rhythm and if you call him with the same CW speed that he is using, you will enable him to maintain the rhythm. If you use a slower speed then you break his rhythm, and, in addition to making it more difficult for him to copy you, you slow down his 'rate' and will not be popular with him, something to remember if you want his QSL card later!

Accuracy on SSB is also important. Use clear phonetics that cannot be confused with other words or letters. Remember that phonetics which sound clear to English speaking amateurs may not be so clear to those whose natural language is other than English.

Choice of Bands

A good strategy, as with QRO contests, is to work the highest band that is open, but I have also found that when working DX on the HF bands with QRP, you appear to obtain some enhancement in signal strength from being on the appropriate band that the MUF is rising or falling through. This phenomena appears to be more distinctive when the MUF is falling. It probably also occurs when using QRO but seems much more noticeable when using QRP. In the CQ WW and ARRL contests when 10 and 15 metres are beginning to close to the west, I have often been able to 'run' USA stations at two or three a minute for 20 to 30 minutes just before the band finally dies completely, whereas I hadn't been able to do it before that.

Can I please make a big plea for a strategy that I believe you should never adopt? That is appending /QRP to your call. The callsign G4BUE/QRP or your own call /QRP can never legally exist, so why use it? In addition to being more letters for the other station to copy, it can be construed that you think you should be given some sort of favour or special treatment because you are a QRP station. I know several top-class QRO contesters who interpret the use of /QRP that way and refuse to answer (unless they are really desperate for the QSO!). Apart from those contests where you are obliged to give your power (like the ARRL DX Contests), nothing about your operating technique should indicate that you are using QRP.

To 'Run' or 'Search and Pounce'

One of the most asked questions in QRP contesting is whether to try and 'run' stations or to 'search and pounce'. Naturally this depends on many things, but mostly hinges on your goals for the contest. If you are trying to build up band/mode/country scores, then searching and pouncing is obviously the best tactic. However, if you are trying to achieve a big score, then you have the same dilemma as the QRO contester.

When to run and when to search and pounce is one of the most debated issues in the hospitality suites and contest forums at Dayton, and there is no real answer. The decision is influenced by the scoring system for the contest, band conditions, your QSO rate when running stations, the number of multipliers worked, how far through the contest you are and how tired you are feeling. Your decision can vary from contest

to contest and from year to year for the same contest.

When using QRP you must be realistic. That means you don't start the CQ WW CW Contest on 14025kHz calling "CQ Contest". Generally speaking I have found the best strategy in the major 48 hour contests is to search and pounce at least for the first 24 hours and usually the first 36. During the last 12 hours the majority of the 'big guns' have worked each other and the pile-ups on them and the DX stations have slowed to a trickle or even dried up altogether. This is the time when some of the big guns, and even some of the DX stations themselves, are searching and pouncing. They are listening for the weak stations calling "CQ Contest" as the chances are they have worked all the louder ones. This is the time when the QRPer can run stations, perhaps not as quickly as the QROers, but with QSOs going in the log that would probably not otherwise have been made.

Searching and Pouncing

I have discovered several useful techniques when searching and pouncing with QRP. You must be able to zero beat accurately. QRPers don't have a big signal to draw the other station to them. They must therefore ensure they transmit exactly on the frequency the other station is listening on. If the first call or two are unsuccessful, I have often found that moving the transmitter VFO 10Hz or so at a time can eventually get you through. A few Hz can make the difference between your QRP signal being in the clear and being heard and being swamped by a much louder one.

How long do you spend calling a particular station? This question is debated amongst the contesters almost as much as the 'running v search and pounce' issue. Contest scores are made up from QSOs being entered in the log. Obviously, time spent unsuccessfully calling a station does not earn you any points, so some form of self-discipline has to be introduced. This can depend on several factors, the most important of which is whether the station is a multiplier (or a double multiplier - zone and country, as in the CQ WW contests) and if so, the likelihood of working the same multiplier again.

In any case don't just tune away from a station after unsuccessfully calling it. Make a note of the call and frequency (perhaps by making use of one of the 100 memories that manufacturers are so fond of fitting to modern transceivers), and come back half an hour or so later. In many instances conditions will have changed, the size of the pile-up may be smaller (or bigger!), or the station may have altered the direction of his antenna to favour you more. Any of these changes can make a big difference when running QRP - the difference between getting through and not getting through. I have often called a station unsuccessfully for longer than I should, tuned away in frustration, and then gone back a short while later and got through on my first call! My scratch pad is usually full of callsigns and frequencies when searching and pouncing in earnest.

After spending considerable time searching and pouncing with QRP in a few major contests, you begin to build up experience and learn the art of calling in pile-ups. It then dawns on you that the reason you are often getting through against the QRO boys is the way in which you call. Almost without realising it, you begin to adopt a different calling technique. This cannot be described in words, but any QRPer will tell you it happens. If you use full break-in (QSK) then you will learn the technique that much quicker, as it will enable you to hear the state of the pile-up while you are calling.

I have always used Ten-Tec Argonauts for QRP contesting (initially the 509 model, then the 515 and currently the 535 Argonaut II).

In my opinion, Ten-Tec still has the best QSK in the world and the thought of searching and pouncing without full break-in makes me shudder! The other reason I use Argonauts is that they are 'proper' QRP rigs. You cannot be tempted to turn up the gain if things are not going the way you want, and thereby give people the opportunity to accuse you of cheating. (Also, if you are a DX chaser you will not be tempted to adopt another procedure that makes genuine QRPers wince. How often have you heard a station break a pile-up and then say to the DX station "will you listen for me on QRP please". And then go on to reduce power, obtain a report and no doubt claim a new one towards his QRP DXCC. Although there are no official rules for QRP DXing, most of us adopt the convention that the whole of the QSO must be made using QRP. That means no breaking the pile-up or getting on a list with QRO or getting your QRO friend to ask the DX station to listen for you, etc.)

After a couple of years of regular QRP contesting I found I was able to assess the size of a pile-up and, combining this with the propagation conditions, was usually able to accurately forecast how long it would take me to get through. This has enabled me to save a lot of otherwise wasted time in unsuccessful calling. This, of course, comes with experience and cannot be learned overnight. It also depends on a good knowledge of propagation, which is another aspect that is more important to the QRP contester.

Antennas

A critical secret of successful QRP contesting and DXing is the antenna. It is obvious when you think about it, but many don't. An efficient antenna can help make up for some of the disadvantage you have against the QROers. You notice I said efficient as opposed to big! Obviously a full size multi-element monoband Yagi on top of a 200 feet tower would help, but most of us have to be more realistic. What is more important than the type of antenna you are using is how efficient the antenna you are using, is working.

QRPers must never be content with an antenna that just 'works'. It has to work to the maximum efficiency that it is possible for the particular antenna to obtain. This applies equally whether the antenna is a TH7 on a 60 feet crank-up tower or a G5RV strung at 30 feet between the house and a garden tree. For any antenna to work properly requires sound construction, good quality low-loss coaxial cable and connectors, an efficient and well constructed ATU (if used) and perfect matching and adjustment to ensure the maximum amount of RF is being radiated in the desired direction.

I have lost count of the hours I have spent tuning and adjusting antennas before being satisfied they are working to their maximum efficiency. Amateurs with more antenna knowledge than me could well say that this desire for antenna perfection is unnecessary as the difference, if any, that it actually makes is so minor that it doesn't matter. They may well be right, but I have found another advantage in doing it that I am convinced does make a difference - confidence!

I firmly believe that confidence is a personal quality that enables people to achieve more things than anything else. If you are genuinely confident that you can do something, then the chances are that you can. This applies equally to things like giving up smoking, obtaining a law degree in your 40s and DXing and contesting with QRP! I have done all three and although they were all very difficult in different ways, I don't think I could have done any of them without having real personal confidence in myself. The time I have spent 'playing' with antennas has contributed to the confidence that I now have to go into pile-ups with QRP and really

believe that I will get through. If you go into a pile-up luke-warm or even slightly negative, then the chances are you will fail. Sorry about the philosophy!

Once you are satisfied your antenna is working to its maximum efficiency, then all unnecessary accessories should be removed from the line between the transmitter and the antenna. Every antenna switch, SWR bridge, etc. has some attenuation. Individually it isn't much, but when added together it can amount to a dB or two. When you are only starting out with five watts from your transmitter, you cannot afford to waste any precious RF on its way to the antenna. On QRO a dB or two of loss isn't going to make any difference.

An amusing story, and an example of when too much attention to antennas can back fire on you, was when Rudi, DK7PE was QRV from one of the rarer North African countries that I needed for my QRP DXCC. He was running a European pile-up on 15 metres and I knew my TH7 worked really well on that band as it was almost optimum size and spacing. Just after I started trying to find the station Rudi was working to enable me to try and 'tail-end', he asked for QRP stations only. Great, I thought, now's my chance. Rudi then worked a long string of stations, many of whom I knew to be genuine QRP stations with smaller antennas than me. I tail-ended several of them but Rudi never answered me. I made the usual checks of being on the right VFO, antenna, etc. but still no reply. Eventually the QRP pile-up diminished and still Rudi didn't answer me, and then he started working the USA.

I then made another check of everything and after satisfying myself that everything was working properly, tried to forget about the frustration of not getting a new one. That evening Rudi was on 40 metres and I called him using normal QRO power. After giving him the usual 599 I told him what happened on 15 metres that morning. He remembered the incident and said he had not answered me because he had been calling QRP stations only and I was so loud that I couldn't possibly have been using QRP! I told him I had been using the Argonaut with a genuine five watts, he said he was sorry, and I still need that particular country for my QRP DXCC! I think that is the first (and hopefully, the last) time that having an efficient antenna can actually be a disadvantage when using QRP!

A final bit of frustration to the above story was that when Rudi was working the QRP pile-up, I heard several UK stations who never normally use QRP, successfully call him and claim to be using five watts. Funny how they were just as strong with me as when they use their normal power!

Transmissions

The quality of your transmission is more important with QRP than QRO because you cannot afford to risk anything that will make a weak signal even more difficult to copy. Your CW note must be T9 with no hint of chirp or click. Use a good quality microphone on SSB and ensure your audio is as clear as possible. Although speech processors can do wonders for an SSB QRP signal, they can be more destructive to a QRP signal when overdriven.

In addition to those skills you need for general contesting, you need to have extra reserves of patience and perseverance when using QRP. In return you stand to receive more satisfaction and sense of achievement. Words cannot describe the feeling in breaking a big pile-up when running only 5 watts. You have to do it yourself to discover it.

One of the things I enjoy about the ARRL DX Contests is giving my power on CW. I used to send "005" but got fed up with stations saying "not nr but pwr pse" or something similar. They obviously thought I

was running normal power. The sense of pride when you then send "5W 5W", again, cannot be described in words. Sometimes I have had to repeat it and even add the letters "QRP" before the other station eventually realises I am only running five watts!

'Milliwatting' and 'Microwatting'

An aspect of QRP contesting that has given me a lot of fun is 'milliwatting'. This is using mW power levels - real QRP! Output RF power levels can be accurately adjusted downwards from a known level using a simple stepped attenuator. Ten-Tec make the model 290 for the Argonaut which reduces the 5 watts in steps down to just 10mW. If you adjust the output of the Argonaut to 500mW, the attenuator allows you to reduce your power in steps to 1mW. If you are not trying to achieve a big score in a contest, it can be real fun trying to see how far you can work with the minimum of power, or how many US states you can work in the ARRL Contest with 500mW or so.

Milliwatting is also a very good method of checking the efficiency of your antennas. When I have put up a new antenna I always use these very low power levels to check it out. I assume that if I can work reasonable DX with just a puff of RF, then it must be working OK.

Another bit of fun that milliwatting can be put to in contests is in 'testing' the antennas and operating skills of the big DX multi-multi stations. As every European contester knows, during the late afternoon of a major contest the HF bands are usually full of USA stations evenly spaced every two or three kHz, all running stations on their own frequency. Most of them are very similar in signal strength, but have you ever wondered which of them achieve their big signal from high power and which of from good antennas? Milliwatting can tell you as antennas work two-way whereas high power only works one way!

As I tune up or down the band, I call each of the stations in turn, perhaps starting at the 10mW level. If there is no other station calling and the station sends "QRZ TEST" etc. then I gradually increase my power until he hears me and a QSO is made. I make a note in my log book of the power I used in addition to the usual QSO information. I generally find that those stations who copied me while I was running the lowest power levels on, say 20 metres are the same stations who copied me with the lowest power levels on 15 and 10 metres. Likewise on 40 and 80 metres.

If further confirmation was needed, after repeating this in several contests, I usually find it is the same stations who continually copy me with the lowest power levels, thus reducing the effect of any difference in conditions, etc. during a particular contest. I conclude that these are the stations achieving their big signals from good antennas rather than high power. (What am I bid from USA readers for a list of those stations who never hear me until I have increased my power quite considerably from the 10mW?!)

It can be quite amusing in the Hospitality Suites at Dayton when you casually mention that W1*** copied my 50mW signal whereas W2*** could not hear me until I had increased my power to 1W!

'Microwatting'

More recently I have taken milliwatting one step further into microwatting. By adjusting the output of my Argonaut to 50mW output, the attenuator allows me to use power levels down to 100µW! These power levels really test the operating skill and antennas of contest stations and your own antennas! In the 1992 Radio Sport Contest I was able to work two YU stations when only running 100µW and an HA station with 500µW. I had to increase my power to 2.5mW to achieve my best USA contact with WZ3Q and then 5mW to work WJ9B.

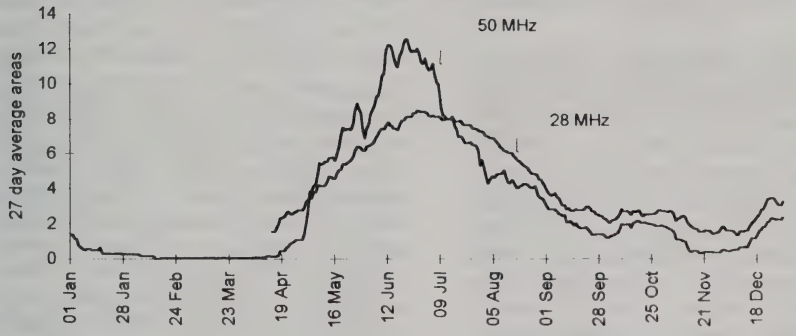
Once the solar flux figures start to rise again and we go into the next sun-spot cycle, I shall be there again. Are your antennas good enough to my microwatt and milliwatt calls?

SPORADIC E ON 28 MHz

Steve Reed, G0AEV

Nobody bothers much with ten metres in solar minimum years, right? The band is closed almost all the time and there is never anything to work. Not true, of course! F-layer DX is still available, though the patchy openings often go undetected except by the persevering few or in major contests. However, during the summer months the band is frequently full of strong European signals - these are propagated via the E-layer by "Sporadic E". There is good evidence that Sporadic E (which is commonly abbreviated to "Es") is best in solar minimum years, so this summer might be a particularly good time to make use of this mode. What exactly could you expect to work via Es and when is this propagation mode most likely to occur?

Fig. 1. Areas worked via Sporadic E during 1994



Although mechanisms for Sporadic E are still debated, the nature of occurrence is fairly well known.

Figure 1 shows the results of Es activity for 10 and for 6 metres during 1994 and is a compilation of data collected by members of the *Six and Ten Reporting Club* and collated by G2AHU. The "areas" measure consists of countries heard/worked on 50 MHz and beacons heard on 28 MHz. The graph shows very clearly that the peak of Es activity is in June and early July and that there is a smaller midwinter peak. The graph is skewed with a long tail of minor Es activity through the autumn with a marked absence of equivalent propagation in the spring - a well established but unexplained phenomena. Note there were no published 10m data for the beginning of 1994 but the 10m trends would be expected to mimic those for 6m.

Day to day variations can be large (which is why a 27 day average is used above), are difficult to explain and harder to predict. Days of high geomagnetic activity are often, but not always, poor days for Es. There is some evidence of periodicity (repetition of Es activity) but is not constrained well enough for practical predictions. The average daily pattern of activity is a more useful indication of the most likely times for Es propagation.

Fig. 2. 28 Mhz Sporadic E - Summer 1994

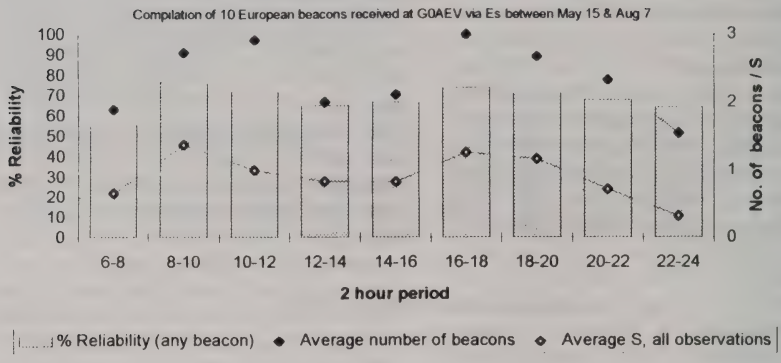


Figure 2 shows the two-hourly reliability of 28 MHz Es propagation as calculated from several thousand observations made between May 15 and August 4 1994, of continuously operating European beacons (DF0AAB, DK0TEN, DL0IGI, EA3JA, HG5GEW, IK1PCB, IY4M, LA5TEN, S55ZRS, and SK5TEN) lying within single hop E-layer distance. Reliability is defined here as the probability of any one of these ten beacons being audible at any time within each two-hour observation period. The hourly variations in reliability and in the other measures graphed (average number of beacons heard, average signal strength) show the well known midmorning and late afternoon peaks in Es activity, but the overall reliability and the high late evening reliability may come as a surprise. Although not graphed, Es can also occur at night (but I have to sleep sometime!). It is worth noting that most of the monitored beacons, although well sited, run low power into low gain omni-directional antennas (as was the receiving antenna at G0AEV) suggesting that these results represent the minimum that could be achieved by typical amateur stations

Most of Europe, including some 50 DXCC countries and 100 plus IOTA islands, lies within strong-signal single hop E-layer distance of the UK, so summertime Sporadic E represents a useful opportunity to work those missing European country/island slots and make some QSOs on an under used band. In addition, "double-hop" Es, which is not uncommon, brings into range European Russia, the Middle East and North Africa as well as the east coast of North America. Openings via Es to the States are recorded several times each year in midsummer but are normally only remarked upon by 6 metre operators for whom these openings represent virtually the only way to make transatlantic QSOs outside of the solar maximum years. In the UK, multi-hop Es to the eastern US is most likely between 20.00 and 22.00z (e.g. G3NAQ in "The VHF/UHF DX Book"), a time when few operators are likely to be active on 10 metres. I have found that early evening very short skip Es between southern England and GM/GI sometimes precedes these late evening stateside openings and might be a useful guide.

I would be interested to hear from anyone who works North America on ten via Es or experiences very short skip (<400 km) Es this summer. (G0AEV is QTHR or via e-mail at stever@me.rtz.co.uk - no packet, sorry).

SOLAR ACTIVITY FEBRUARY/MARCH 1995

Jim Smith, G0OFE

Solar activity in February and March has held quite steady at around the levels of the previous 4 months or so. The average solar flux for February and March was 85.5 and 85.0 respectively, making 6 consecutive months with mean flux in the 80s. The highest flux during the period was 95 on 19th Feb. and 24th March, and the lowest was 76 on the 11th March. The running 27-day average of solar flux remained close to 85 units throughout the period. The annual mean solar flux as at the end of March, and centred on the end of September 1994 was 81.5sfu.

Geomagnetic activity was quite variable. Stable conditions lasting for several days were interspersed with four periods of more disturbed conditions. Unfortunately one of the more disturbed days coincided with the Sunday of the CQWW WPX SSB contest.

Crystal Ball Time! My gut feeling is that we may soon see a drop in solar activity to levels well down on those of the next 3-4 months or so, perhaps close to rock-bottom with average flux in the low 70's, only for flux levels to recover somewhat a few months later. Such patterns superimposed on the general downward curve have occurred during previous cycles. Even so, my forecast is only a guess and time will tell if I need a crystal ball with a better noise figure!

VK0 HEARD ISLAND

QRZ DX reports that W8BLA is the newest member to sign on for this DXpedition by the fomer South Sandwich Island DX Group. There are still slots open for CW ops and one doctor. If you are interested in further details for joining the dxpedition call Tony, WA4JQS, at +1-606-679-3151. The environmental impact statement for landing permission on Heard was submitted in mid-February by VI0ANT who is a team member. So far no decision has been received back from the government office in Hobart which is dealing with the submission.

DESIGNED FOR THE DESERVING

Ed: This is an update of the item in the March Newsletter. Prices now included postage to UK destinations.

To enhance your membership of CDXC, we have produced a select range of Desirable Designer Goodies (well almost designer) All carry the distinctive CDXC Logo. There are Paperweights in Marble that can be used as small plaques. Award yourself for all your unrecorded DX achievements ! These are quite heavy so Postage is expensive dependent on destination. Cost only £3-50.

As one of the key members of the UK DX Foundation can you afford to be without a CDXC key ring and well worth the £1-75 again.

The ultimate tool to confirm those Rubber Stamp QSOs Yes a CDXC Rubber Stamp. With this you can really put CDXC on the map, or anywhere else! A gift like all our Goodies at £5-50

All are available direct from Neville Cheadle, G3NUG, or to save Postage, will be on sale at the Annual Review Meeting and Summer Get Together in July.

Payment can only be accepted in UK Funds and if sending a cheque to include overseas postage please leave the amount blank with a maximum amount stated if necessary.

Supplies are limited so let's have your orders NOW !!!!

New members should also note that G3WGV's popular PC contest logging software, LOG, is available from Alan Jubb, G3PMR. The registration fee is £25.00, which includes 12 months support. All proceeds from sales of LOG go to CDXC funds.

CDXC QSL cards, which have attracted a lot of favourable comments from DX stations, and certainly help your card to be noticed, are available from Ian Shephard, G4LJF

DXPEDITION & FAMILY VISIT TO PUKAPUKA ISLAND NORTH COOK ISLANDS

KEN HOLDOM, ZK1KH

Having been planning our visit to the Cook Islands over the preceding 18 months we were still somewhat unsure until we arrived in Rarotonga (South Cooks and the main island and business centre for the whole Cook Islands) whether we would actually get to PUKAPUKA although we did have a confirmed return flight Pukapuka - Rarotonga before we actually left New Zealand.

It does not give one a great deal of confidence or satisfaction to have a confirmed return flight without actually being confirmed to get to the DXpedition QTH in the first place.

On arrival in Rarotonga on Saturday 10 December (local date) and after some one and three quarter hours waiting for our baggage we proceeded through Customs with no problems. Our baggage far exceeded the allowance and our thanks goes to Air New Zealand for getting this to Rarotonga at very minimal cost.

Life in the Cook Islands

Settling back into life in the Cook Islands we did not experience the same severe climatic changes that Dan Brown N7WTU and his group did some months earlier when they visited both Rarotonga and Aitutaki as my XYL Imela originally comes from Pukapuka, albeit some 20 years ago and I myself worked in the Cook Islands for a period of 2 years in the early 1970's and we have both visited the islands on a number of occasions since, the last of which was some 4 years previously.

On my last visit to Rarotonga in December 1990/January 1991 I also operated as ZK1KH for a period of some 6 weeks and made some 1000 plus contacts with 106 different countries of which I have 76 confirmed as at the time of writing. All QSL cards received to date for this DXpedition have been replied to.

The following Monday we proceeded to the Deputy Prime Minister's office to check flight details with Peter Marsters, the Chief Executive in that office and who had given us a great deal of assistance whilst we were in New Zealand. Peter's efforts were greatly appreciated and without his continued assistance we may not have got to Pukapuka.

Not only was Peter able to advise us that there had been a flight to Pukapuka the day before we arrived but that there would be another flight on 27 December which we were confirmed on, much to our relief.

Peter was also very instrumental in arranging the shipping via the M.V. Cape Don of our antennas and other accessories from Rarotonga to Pukapuka. This vessel was on charter by the Catholic Church in Rarotonga to enable Catholic representatives from the Northern Cook Islands to attend their Centenary Celebrations which were being held in Rarotonga.

Flight to Pukapuka

The 27 December finally arrived and we proceeded to check in for our flight. Being considerably over our weight allowance of only 10 kg per person, baby excluded, we were very fortunate to have pre arranged with the Chief Executive of Air Rarotonga to allow for us to take some 35 kilos of excess baggage on the flight. Not only was our baggage weighed but also all hand luggage and passengers because of the distance we were travelling and the maximum amount of fuel that could be carried. Our very sincere appreciation goes to Air Rarotonga for not only allowing us to take this excess baggage on the flight free of charge to Pukapuka but also on the return

flight as well. Thanks Ewan.

We boarded our flight at 6am local time bound for Pukapuka via Aitutaki (South Cooks) and Manihiki (North Cooks). The purpose of calling at these other two islands was to re-fuel the aircraft.

For those interested in aviation the aircraft was a 20 seat Bandairante which only carries a maximum of 10 passengers plus crew because of the necessity to refuel on long inter-island flights and because of the locality of navigational beacons for positioning of aircraft.

It was necessary to travel towards Manihiki (another of the Northern Cook Islands) because of poor weather conditions at Pukapuka at the commencement of our flight and during the course of this long 5 hour flight these conditions improved dramatically and we diverted our course and headed direct to Pukapuka thus avoiding a call at Manihiki.

I can assure readers that this was the longest flight I have ever experienced without all the normal comforts like inflight refreshments etc. although a very welcomed snack was served and greatly appreciated by all on board as most had not had breakfast before departure. As we were travelling at only 9000 - 10000 feet in a turbo prop aircraft there was no cabin pressurisation, however, the temperature inside the aircraft was very comfortable.

Pukapuka

Finally arriving at Pukapuka at 11am local time we disembarked the aircraft (after spraying) into a sweltering heat and the perspiration problem immediately became imminent.

A welcoming ceremony was held in the sole airport building which was constructed of local materials in the traditional island style with a number of wooden poles supporting a thatched roof. Following this welcoming ceremony we then proceeded on the back of a truck to the wharf from where we were to be ferried by an aluminium run-about boat to the main island of Pukapuka, which took some 40 minutes. This was most welcome as it gave us all the chance to get some really fresh salt air into our systems and to cool down a little.

The reason for the boat trip is that the airport is located on one of the normally uninhabited islands and the main inhabited island, Pukapuka is across the lagoon.

Late in the afternoon we attended our first of many island style feasts (or dinners) which lasted for approximately 2 hours and was hosted for all those who had travelled with us on the flight from Rarotonga to Pukapuka plus other invited guests. A very important and enjoyable traditional custom on the Island.

The Shack and Power Supply

Due to total physical exhaustion and the lack of sleep no thoughts were even given towards installing antennas etc. until the following morning when the first G5RV was installed running East/West and then the radio was set up. By the time all this was completed the local generator had closed down.

The generator is owned by the Cook Islands Government and with special permission from the Ministry of Energy in Rarotonga and with the very kind generosity and co-operation of the Government Representative (GR), Mr Peua Taingaru, I was not only allowed to use the generator during generating times but I was accommodated in one of the bedrooms of the GR's house for the duration of our visit for the sole purpose of using the radio as we were staying with my XYL's parents some 300 meters away.

The generator is used to supply electricity to the majority of Government buildings on the

island including the hospital which are all located in close proximity of each other. Local generating times were from 0600-1200 and 1800-2359 which equates to Zulu time as 1600-2200 and 0400-1000 (12 hours per day maximum).

Without the kind hospitality offered by Peua I would have been at a somewhat dead-end and would have had great difficulty in obtaining other suitable accommodation to house the radio equipment within a reasonable distance of the generator. My sincere appreciation for their tolerance also goes to the guests who were staying with Peua for the duration of our visit.

Most local houses on the island until recently did not have any form of electricity whatsoever and a result of French Government aid to the island all houses have their own solar power supply which in the main provides for lighting at 24 volts. Whilst there is a single power point in each house(there is supposed to be only one) these were not adequate for two reasons, the first being the sockets were of a European style with no suitable adapters being available and secondly the batteries would not sustain heavy usage from ham radio equipment.

Operating at last!

Actual operation began at 0553 Zulu on 29 December with the first contact being Yama JA8XOK.

Although the official generating hours have been mentioned above the actual times were dependant on when the Power supply worker arrived to physically start or close down the generator. Being in a land where time is not so important the actual generating times varied significantly hence there may be some readers who thought they were in with a good chance to make a contact when suddenly the generator would be turned off, as much to my disappointment also.

To make things even worse, on day 3 of the operation severe winds took down the second G5RV which was installed in a North/South direction. As the following day was a Sunday and in respect of local customs, especially Christianity, I was unable to get this back up again until the 2nd January. I should like to point out that in Pukapuka, like many other islands in the Pacific, nothing apart from church and eating takes place on a Sunday. Cooking and food preparation normally takes place on Saturday evening in readiness for Sunday meals.

With temperatures constantly in the 30's (Celsius) and humidity in the high 90's operation at times was rather exhausting. As fast as one could drink vast quantities of water to keep the throat reasonably well oiled (so to speak) perspiration would take over. I have never consumed so much liquid with so infrequent visits to the WC in my entire life.

There were occasions when I was obliged to close the station down for family and other reasons and I hope that this did not disappoint too many DX hunters. Incidentally when band conditions always seemed best there would be a landline call for a meal or some other family activity which at times was very frustrating but after all the visit was as much a family affair as it was a DXpedition and this had to be taken into account and I hope readers will understand and appreciate this.

Sport - there's more to life than radio!

One very important aspect of life in Pukapuka is the annual sporting competitions which start immediately after Christmas day and last for approximately 4 weeks. The sports are played Monday through Thursday with Friday being a rest day, Saturday for fishing and food preparing and Sunday as previously mentioned. Sports take precedence over ALL other activities

and the island virtually closes down for the 4 weeks. Even the local Policemen find it difficult to find a reason to work.

The sports include tennis, cricket(island style), puapua (island style bowls using a string to toss a flattish discus like bowl), tika (throwing sticks along the ground for some considerable distance), husking coconuts, traditional canoe racing, volleyball, toto (coconut frond rib, dried and singed to make it light for tossing, similar to tika.)

With three villages competing in each sport competition is very keen. The village names are ROTO (America), YATO (Japanese)and NGAKE (Holland). One can only presume that these represent the visiting American Warships, Japanese fishing boats and Dutch Catholic Priests who have all played an important part in the life of Pukapukans.

My XYL Imela was selected to be the ladies singles tennis team member for her original village of Yato and was very successful in winning this championship for which she was very proud. For the second game, I was watching in a sheltered spot with a slight breeze blowing and the temperature was 42 degrees Celsius. I would not like to have guessed what it was like on a concrete tennis court in the direct blazing sun. Yes she did complain about the heat but only after she had won. Imela also won the Pukapukan ladies singles championship held in Rarotonga on the 26th December. This is also an annual event played amongst Pukapukans who live or are in Rarotonga at the time of the sport.

The real family highlight of our visit was to have our son William christened on the 8th January in the Cook Islands Christian Church in Pukapuka. This church is the follow on from the days of the London Missionary Society some years ago. William being only 5 months old handled the 2 hour service very well with no signs of any child noises. Although his part only took 15 minutes we stayed for the full church service, something we will remember for the rest of our lives

Apart from our family, sporting and my radio activities, combined with eating and drinking there was little time to do anything else, however for those who that are interested I managed to find enough time to walk completely around the main island of Pukapuka which took a total of 95 minutes and believe me it was no easy task on the hot sand and in the direct sun, even though I undertook this task in the early morning. The temperature was about 32 degrees Celsius and humidity was about 90 per cent. Not something I would recommend to any prospective visitor to the Island should you be able to get there.

Robert Dean Frisbie

In the 1920's and 1930's Pukapuka was once the home of American author Robert Dean FRISBIE (to whom my XYL is related by marriage) who occupied his time by operating a trading store on the Island and writing books and articles about the Pacific. Both of his two storey houses are still evident, the latter still being occupied. FRISBIE's books include "The Book of Pukapuka" first published in 1929, "Island of Desire", "Mr Moonlights Island", "Dawn Sails North" and "Amaru". All these books make excellent reading and give very vivid descriptions of the island lifestyle in general.

We were fortunate enough to meet Frisbie's son Charlie whilst there and this added a little interest to the visit as he is a delightful person to be with and full of jokes and of course his ability to get a smile or laugh from anyone is something he will be remembered by in years to come.

Pukapuka Geography

For those interested in brief details about the island, the position is approximately 165 degrees West and 10 degrees South.

Population is approximately 760 of whom there are some 100 public service employees. At this number, this brings in a significant income for a majority of families. There is now no income derived from the production of Copra. This income in the past was very significant. A number of families still rely on financial support from relatives living abroad.

The food supply on the island consists mainly of local products such as fish, pork, chicken, taro and coconuts, all of which are supplemented by overseas products in the form of canned meat, canned fish, rice, sugar, flour, cabin bread and a number of other essential foodstuffs. To those who prefer green vegetables you would need to rely on taro leaves and breadfruit. A small amount of limes and papaya are also grown. The most delightful island food is the KAVEU or Coconut Crab.(This is very similar although slightly richer to lobster or crayfish).The costs of food which is shipped to the island is very expensive compared with the costs in New Zealand.

With the exception of one local dance put on for the return of the Catholic people who went to Rarotonga there was no other night entertainment during our visit. As previously mentioned most people were pre-occupied with the sporting events.

During the last week of our stay we were very fortunate to be able to go to both the other islands in the group which are normally uninhabited. These two islands are now mainly used for growing taro and coconuts for local consumption only. Some years ago they were a source of considerable income derived from the production of copra.

Because of the infrastructure of the island and the custom to keep them uninhabited except at crop harvesting time, it is necessary to get permission to go to these islands which we got without any problems. Having the right family connections always helps.

Although I mentioned that these two islands are normally uninhabited, the island on which the airport is built does have two watchmen there on a village rotation system whereby they spend two weeks on the island and are then replaced by another two from the same village. This is to ensure that no harm is done to the airport.

The recently constructed coral airstrip and building is a real credit to the Pukapukan people and will be of tremendous benefit to those who require urgent medical treatment in Rarotonga. No longer will they have to wait weeks and sometimes months for a ship to take them to Rarotonga to get this treatment as they will run emergency flights to solve this problem.

Time to Leave

Having had such an enjoyable stay the 26th January seemed to be upon us before we realised, although we were looking forward to getting back to the normal comforts of life like a variety of green vegetables and meat, the not so expensive luxuries in life and more importantly hot and cold running water for showers and flush toilets.

In total I made 1616 contacts with 60 different countries during the 26 days of operation. This was a little disappointing, however considering propagation the way it was and without a beam antenna and a linear amplifier this may not have been so bad after all. There is no doubt some very pleased readers will have had the North Cooks confirmed by now. All QSL cards received as at date of publication of this article have been replied to.

Again we had the joys of the boat trip back to the island where the airstrip is located and this seemed to take a lot less time that the original trip. Maybe there was some real deep down feelings of anticipation of getting back to normal that made the time go faster.

At the airport we were given a farewell (and I must admit not without a few tears) and we boarded our direct flight back to Rarotonga which took exactly 4 hours.

Whilst in Rarotonga both at the beginning and the end of our holiday we were very fortunate to have had the use of a motor car belonging to Trish and Teariki Kamana. Teariki (ZK1TK) is the local issuing authority for ham radio licences in the Cook Islands and has been a personal friend of our family for over 20 years. Trish who is originally from the Chatham Islands (ZL7) was not in Rarotonga during our visit as she was visiting her family in the Chatham Islands.

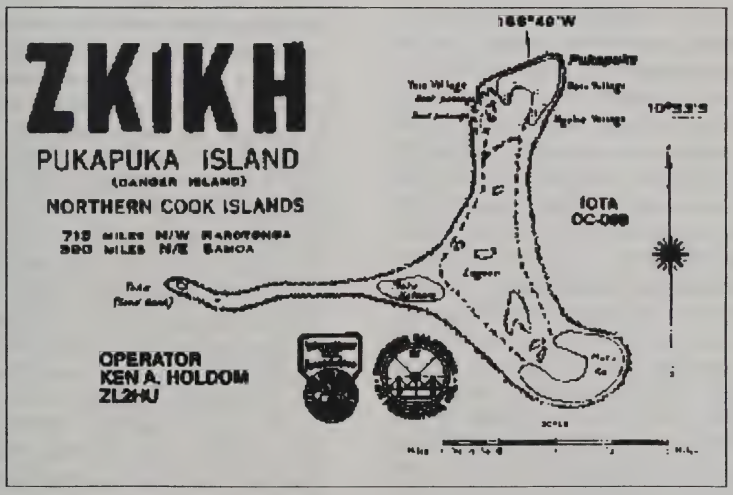
Without the use of their vehicle we would have had to rely on the public transport which at times is not the most suitable. In all honesty I think it may have been cheaper in the long term to hire a rental vehicle as the costs associated with the high level of consumption of amber coloured liquid refreshments was quite staggering. Not that we minded in the least.

If there are any readers who would like more information about Pukapuka or would like an eyeball QSO with us in Wellington, NZ then please feel free to contact us at our home QTH, 31 St. Johns Terrace, Tawa, Wellington, New Zealand. (Home Call ZL2HU, Phone 04-2326478)

Thanks

Finally, to all those organisations, individuals and companies who made this DXpedition possible we would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation for their support and trust that similar support will be available for our planned visit to the Kermadec Islands (ZL8) in November/December this year. Donations and support can be sent to the above address of ZL2HU.

73's and good DXing



PUKAPUKA PERSISTENCE PAYS OFF!

Martin Atherton, G3ZAY

My involvement with Ken's expedition began in early 1994 when RSGB HQ forwarded a letter seeking sponsorship. I was able to raise the request with the CDXC, HF, and IOTA committees all of which agreed a small donation towards Ken's costs.

It was stressed that the G-ZK path would be a tough one in mid-winter at sunspot minimum and we asked Ken if he could take a linear and/or beam but it seemed that the inter-island airline's excess baggage charges would exceed the cost of the equipment and he would have to operate barefoot.

To improve the chance of a QSO it was necessary to set up some skeds and the MINIPROP propagation programme was surprisingly encouraging. The plan was to be QRV at 0830/0900/0930 etc. on 14260 and 0905/0935/1005 etc. on 18128, followed by 1600-1700 on 14260.

Xmas was approaching fast but there was no sign of Ken on the bands. I knew that his plans encompassed a visit to Victor, ZK1CG, in Rarotonga before setting off for Pukapuka and I was hopeful that Victor would have some news. BT Directory Enquiries located his phone number but when I eventually tracked him down he knew no more than the rest of us. Finally, the long awaited phone call came from Jim Smith around 0500 on December 28th. Ken was QRV, but I was in bed with 'flu and in no fit state to traipse out to an ice cold shack. The weekend came and with it some bad news. The Pukapuka generator was running low on fuel and the supply ship was several weeks away - necessitating reduced running hours. Ken had to be QRT by 0900 and could not restart until 1700, effectively wiping out any chance on 14/18 MHz in the mornings and also missing the good long path afternoon opening. We had to try, however, and despite a raging temperature I set off for the shack on Saturday at around 1600. Complying with doctor's orders to stay warm I worked out a rather complex routine. Dash out to the car to get the heater going, retreat to the flat for 10 minutes, drive to the shack and start the fan heaters, retreat to warmth of car for another 10 minutes, and finally move into shack!

Unfortunately, conditions were not good. The A index was around 15 and the solar flux very low at 75. W6 stations were S3 and although Ken was on frequency and copying me I could not hear a thing. Neville, G3NUG, was listening on frequency with his beams on short and long path simultaneously and also could hear nothing. Sunday was a repeat performance. Ken was on frequency at 0800 (when ZL1ARY was 59) but there was no propagation in either direction. At 1700 Ken was copying me in the noise but was still inaudible in the UK. The pattern repeated for the next few days when G3NUG and others kept the skeds but it looked as though I would have to try something different.

40 metres was the next best option as I had a Cushcraft 402CD in the attic and could erect it on the tower if the weather forecast promised a spell of calm weather. The following Friday looked good and I took the afternoon off work to set things up. After two hours of wrestling with the fully assembled antenna - trying to mount it on the partially tilted tower from the top of a 10 foot ladder I adopted the technique I should have used from the start. Crank the tower over fully, mount the boom horizontally, add the upper half of each element, then wind the tower back to vertical adding the bottom half of the elements one piece at a time. Very simple, except that the TH5 had to be dismantled the same way before the tower could be fully tilted and then reassembled afterwards.

The new set-up certainly looked impressive

though the local farmer rapidly appeared and moved his car well away from the base; I assume he wanted a better view of its magnificence. This antenna would certainly do the trick - Ken would be 59 on 40m how could he be otherwise?

Ray, ZL1ARY, and Jim, VK9NS, confirmed the skeds for 0730, 0745, 0800, 0830 and duly showed up on Saturday morning to assist. They were good signals but Ken was still solidly in the noise and remained there for all the subsequent skeds that day though he heard me about 33 at 0800. The antenna sounded good and excluded much of the European QRM but, sadly, comparisons with my single Butternut showed it was no louder in ZL than the vertical. Presumably 65 feet was not high enough and that afternoon I took the 402 down.

The 20m skeds at 1700 continued more in hope than any serious expectation of success. I was convinced that the best shot would be long path at about 1600 but Ken would only be able to start at that time once the supply ship had arrived with the generator's fuel. Its progress was carefully monitored but as ETAs continually slipped it became clear that it would not arrive before Ken's departure date.

The weekend of January 21st/22nd was to be his last on the island and my last shot at working him. The solar numbers looked good with a low A figure and a high flux and I was cautiously optimistic on the Saturday - By 1730 Ken was copying me quite well but the best I could make out was a faint rhythm in the noise as he counted out my report. Sunday saw a further improvement in conditions with several KH6s audible and 3D2CC coming back to my DX call on 14260. Ken showed up at 1700 but was again inaudible and set about working the US West Coast. And then the miracle occurred! At about 1715 he came right out of the noise and I was able to give him a genuine 51 report and copied him for the next 30 minutes. A happy ending after many many hours of listening and antenna building. Several other CDXC members including G3NUG and G3KMA also got through in this window.

I would like to thank Ken for his patience and persistence, and his reliability in keeping to the scheds.

US GRANT TO UKRAINE

From ARRL Headquarters Newington CT April 10, 1995 To all radio amateurs.

Ukrainian Amateur Radio operators will benefit from a 24,987 dollar grant from the US Agency for International Development. The grant, from USAID through the Eurasia Foundation, was obtained by a proposal made by the Foundation for Amateur International Radio Service, a non-profit public foundation founded in May 1991.

FAIRS has charter groups in Ukraine, Guyana, Bangladesh, and Russia. The grant will fund electronics hardware to extend APLINK coverage to Kiev from the Western Ukraine, with nodes also going to Hungary, the Czech Republic, and Poland. An Internet gateway also is planned, as well as an additional APLINK station and an FM repeater in western Ukraine. Delivery of the equipment is expected by early summer, and will include hardware for seven digipeater nodes, including terminal node controllers, radios, and antennas. About 35 Ukrainian amateurs have packet capability in the current APLINK system.

The FAIRS grant proposal was written by Executive Director David Larsen, KK4WW, and European Director Victor Goncharsky, US5WE. A previous FAIRS project, training of prospective amateurs in Bangladesh, was described in September 1993 QST, on page 86.

IOTA COMPUTER SYSTEM

Neville Cheadle G3NUG

WE'VE MADE IT! - A TOTALLY COMPUTERISED APPLICATION PROCEDURE

We have recently completed the design, programming and system-testing of a new software program for IOTA Members. This automates the application process and enables an application to be prepared without any retyping of data at any stage. We believe this is a break through for a major awards programme. The system has been written by CDXC Member John Linford G3WGV, the author of Turbolog. The IOTA checkpoint will generate a floppy disk for individual Members containing:

- an installation program,
- a copy of their current IOTA data,
- help files,
- a list of islands and their reference numbers and,
- a special administration program which allows members to examine their current scores, make additions, and submit an update claim (including claims for awards) on disk.

This disk is then sent to the appropriate checkpoint with the QSL cards. The checkpoint uploads the data from the disk, at the same time checking the cards and clearing exception reports. In due course the disk is returned to the Member with his cards by the checkpoint. Members then have a listing of current credits (which can be printed out). The Member's system can then be updated as cards arrive and a disk can then be sent off to the checkpoint as desired.

New or existing Members wanting an IOTA disk should apply to their checkpoint. For G stations this is Phil Marsh G4WFZ - QTHR. We hope that the vast majority of IOTA Members will opt for the disk system in due course. It will reduce clerical effort, minimise transcription errors and reduce paperwork. All very worthy objectives! The price for the initial disk is £5, US$8 or 13 IRCs post paid.

EU-006 INIS MEAIN ISLAND 1995 IOTA Contest

After last year's very enjoyable island DXpedition to St. Tudwal's (IOTA EU-106) off the GW coast, the WestNet DX Group is again planning a major effort in the IOTA contest in July, 1995.

The group will operate from Inis Meain Island (IOTA EU-006) from Thursday July 27th to Tuesday August 1st. The Atlantic Island is located off the West Coast of EI. Outside the contest the group will be active on all bands and modes including AMTOR & Pactor using the call EJ****??.

Operators for this year's WestNet Island IOTA adventure include:-

Republic of Ireland: EI6FR, EI2GX, EI3HA, EI9IF, EI7DSB.
Wales: GW4VEQ, GW0ONY, GW4OFQ, GW3JXN.
Northern Ireland: GI0KOW, GI0NWG.

QSL via EI6FR.

We are all looking forward to working all our Ham-Radio friends around the World, and hope to make this year's IOTA contest score the best ever!

Here are our QSL statistics for our 1994 trip to St.Tudwal's Island (EU106):-

All direct cards were returned prior to December '94. All QSOs in GB0TI log QSL'd via buro Dec. '94. All QSOs in GW4VEQ/p log QSL'ed via buro Mar '95

73's & Good IOTA, de Declan EI6FR, WestNet DX Group.
Ed: See P24 of the March Newsletter for details of another DXpedition to EU-006.

INTERNATIONAL CW "Z" SIGNALS

By international convention, CW operators have developed a list of standard 3-character groups to improve brevity and comprehension in CW. Here are the most commonly used "Z" signals.

ZRB I am tuned up on the wrong band. Can you copy me anyway?
You're tuned up on the wrong band, but I can copy you anyway.

ZRC Do you make cow sounds when you tune up on phone?
I make cow sounds when I tune up on phone.

ZRE Do you have to eat now?
I have to eat now.

ZRH Is it hot enough for you?
Its hot enough for me.

ZRM Is your wall map laminated?
My wall map is laminated.

ZRO Has your XYL/OM told you to get off the air yet?
My XYL/OM has told me to get of the air.

ZRS What kind of chair are you sitting in?
My chair is a .....

ZRT Were you just tuning across the band and decided to give me a shout?
I was tuning across the band and decided to give you a shout.

ZRW When was the last time you went outside?
I went outside ..... ago (length of time in months)

ZSB Am I boring you to tears?
You are boring me to tears.

ZSC What did you say your call-sign was?
I can't remember my call-sign, or yours.

ZSD Do you know what the buttons and dials on your rig are for?
I don't know what the buttons and dials on my rig are for.

ZSE What are you having for dinner?
I am having..... for dinner.

ZSH Do you have a hat with your name and call-sign on it?
I have a hat with my name and call-sign on it.

ZSK Do you tell new hams not to kerchunk then do it anyway to demonstrate?
I tell new hams not to kerchunk then do it anyway to demonstrate

ZST Did you watch last week's episode of.....?
I watched last week's episode of.....

ZSY Can you make your voice real high, so DX will think you are an XYL?
I can make my voice real high so DX will think I'm an XYL.

ZZZ Are you starting to nod off?
I am starting to nod off.

Ed: Tnx to G4BUO for this one!

SV8/G3SWH MYKONOS

Phil, G3SWH will be in Mykonos, Greece, on vacation between 23rd and 30th May 1995. Phil hopes to be active, on CW only, mainly on the WARC bands and on 40 & 20 metres as conditions allow, during this time as SV8/G3SWH. Please note that this is not intended to be a DX-pedition, merely an extension to Phil's vacation, so activity will be intermittent as and when he can get on the air. Phil expects to be running 100 watts into wire (dipole) antennas. Special QSL cards will be printed and will be available via his home address (QTHR in any call book since 1970) or via the RSGB bureau.

THE AIRWAVE SYSTEMS MICROKEY

Alan Jubb, G3PMR

The Microkey is assembled by Airwave Systems, 31 Benson Close, Hounslow, Middx, TW3 3QX, Tel 0181 572 8615. The proprietor of Airwave Systems is David Bowman, G0MRF. The firmware and manual are copyright of N0II and KC0Q.

The Microkey, which is based on the Motorola 68HC705 CMOS micro-controller IC, is housed in a small grey box, approximately 153mm by 145mm, and is about 45mm high. A sloping front panel houses a rotary speed control, a two position side tone volume switch (lo/hi), and four push buttons - more of these later.

The rear panel contains a standard 6.25mm stereo jack socket for the key (plug provided), a phono socket for keying a positive TX line (plug & cable supplied), a switch for switching between internal battery and external PSU, and a connector for external power (9-15v DC, PSU not supplied). A 6.25mm jack socket is also provided for connection to an internal 12v relay (only operational when an external PSU is connected), which has a contact rating of 300v DC at 500mA, and has a switching time of 0.5mS at 12v. This is not suitable for ultra high speed keying, such as used in meteor scatter. The positive key line should be used for such applications.

Communicating with the Microkey

One of the unique features of the Microkey is that you communicate with it in Morse code. When power is applied, the Microkey sends "OK" through the side-tone loud speaker. Commands are sent to the Microkey using the paddle, in combination with the push buttons. This results in a very simple user interface, without the myriad of switches, knobs, or complex keyboard sequences found in some keyers.

Keying Speed

The Microkey can key the transmitter at speeds from 6 to 60 wpm. However, the keyer operates over a roughly 1:3 speed range, which is selected by the user from the 1:10 speed range above. To select the desired speed range, first set the rotary control to the position at which you want 20 wpm to be set. Then press the four push buttons simultaneously. The Microkey responds with a beep.

There is also an *ultra speed* mode which allows keying at 70 - 990 wpm.

Feature List

The main features of the Microkey are:

- Iambic keyer with dot and dash memories
- Four separate message stores with space for 220 characters
- Messages may call others and contain embedded functions
- Message queue to store multiple message activations
- Contest serial number from 001 to 9999
- Digital and linear analogue speed control
- Adjustable weight on code elements 25% to 75%
- Adjustable frequency side tone monitor
- Tune function for TX adjustment
- Selectable automatic character spacing
- Timed pauses within messages
- Message loop capability for continuous replay
- Break in message to allow paddle inserted text
- Emulation available for other keyers including Curtis "A" timing
- Ultra low power operation for battery operation.

Setting Functions

Two of the four press buttons are labelled

"FUNCTION". Functions are set by pressing the two function buttons and then sending a single character with the key, sometimes followed by a parameter. For example, to toggle the side tone on/off, press the two function buttons and key "M" - simplicity itself! There are eighteen functions in total, including speed control, weight setting, emulation selection, contest serial number increment/decrement/setting, paddle reversal etc.

Inquiry Functions

The other two press buttons are labelled "INQUIRY". One can enquire about the setting of various parameters by pressing the two inquiry keys, and keying a character. For example, to find the value of the next serial number, press the two inquiry buttons and key "N". The next serial number will be played in Morse code through the side tone speaker. There are thirteen enquiry functions in total

Message Buffer

Up to four messages may be stored with a combined length of up to 220 characters. A message is sent by pressing one of the four push buttons. Memory button presses can be queued, with up to eight memory button presses being remembered.

Creating a character message is very simple - just hold down the required message button for 2 seconds or more - the Microkey will respond with a beep - send the message with the key, and momentarily press the button again. As the message is being entered, the Microkey responds with a "dit dit" after each word. Words can be erased with a series of seven or more dits.

Functions may be embedded within a message. For example, to include the current serial number in a message, simply send "/N". When the message is replayed, the serial number will be sent and then incremented. There are eleven embedded functions, including the calling of another message.

Parts of the message may be sent at different speeds by including the function "/Sdd" at appropriate points in the message, where dd is the desired speed in wpm, in the range 06 to 60. Messages may be paused to allow the inclusion of manually sent text, using the "/R" function, and restarted by momentarily pressing that message's button, or paused for d.d seconds using the "/Pdd" function.

In so called "real time" message mode, messages can be created with stretched or compressed, rather than perfectly timed, character spacing. In this mode, embedded functions are not allowed.

When stored messages are being sent, detection of paddle closure will abort the message and flush the message queue, with the exception of cases where paddle operation is expected, e.g. with the "/R" function above.

Serial Number Options

The Microkey offers a wide range of options for sending serial numbers, including suppression of leading zeroes, sending "O" or "T" as an abbreviation for zero, and sending "N" for abbreviation of nine. Other numbers are not abbreviated. For numbers less than 1000, the leading zero is always suppressed.

Emulation Options

The Microkey comes with ten built in emulation modes, encompassing Super Keyer II, Accukeyer, Curtis "A", and iambic timing with combinations of dot and dash memory.

Documentation

The Microkey comes with a nine page A5 size operations manual, and an eleven page tutorial manual, as well as an additional A4

sheet covering external connections. The documentation seems comprehensive, and is clear and easy to read.

Conclusion

The Microkey is everything that a well conceiveded product should be - well made, easy to use, with comprehensive facilities and good documentation, and represents excellent value. Would I buy one? Yes - I just did! The Microkey is available from Airwave Systems, or from Martin Lynch, at £119.

ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER

This Newsletter depends for its success on the availability of input from members. Input may take the form of news items, letters, articles on HF operating, DXpedition reports, contesting, equipment reviews etc. In general, most items of HF content are welcome.

I am happy to receive articles in any form. However, it is obviously much less work for me if I don't have to type the article up, and, for that reason prefer articles to be submitted in electronic form, preferably produced using a modern word processor. The Newsletter is produced using Word For Windows 6.0, which can accept most current WP file formats, but ***please always also include on disk a plain text version of the file, and also supply hard copy***, just in case something goes wrong with the translation, as it often does with tabular information.

For those using Word 6 for the production of articles, I can supply a template which will enable the article to be produced directly in the Newsletter format - please get in touch if you'd like a copy.

Small items may be submitted via PacketCluster, but my link to the system is sometimes a little tenuous, so this is not always a reliable method. Alternatively use email - my address is *alanj@pires.co.uk*.

If you don't have access to a PC, then, of course, I would still like to receive articles, and these should preferably be typewritten, although clear hand-written items are always acceptable. These may be Faxed to me at *01767 677 913* or mailed to the address on the front cover.

The deadline for submitting articles is the seventh of the month prior to the month of publication, although I can take late news and small items up to about two weeks later. Please do try to let me have submissions by the deadline, as production of the Newsletter is quite time consuming, and has to be fitted in around other things such as work, family, and other leisure activities!

Please keep the input coming!

73 Alan Jubb, G3PMR
Editor, CDXC Newsletter

FOR SALE/WANTED

Cliff, G0MMI has the following items for sale:

Yaesu FV707 DM with mic £60 ono
Yaesu MD1B8 desk mic boxed £45 ono.

Cliff would like to hear from members who can supply him with an SP3 external speaker or SP7 and a compatible desk mic for Icom.

WELCOME!!

On behalf of the Comittee, I would like to welcome the following new members to CDXC:

G2HDR	Cyril Chapman, Westbury On Trym
G4OBK	Phil Caterall, Scarborough
G4OWT	Steve Harwood, Lewes
G3WNI	Bill Lindsay-Smith, Cullompton

I hope that all of you enjoy being members of CDXC, *The UK DX Foundation*, and that, where possible, you will get involved in CDXC activities.

David Mann, G0HXN, Secretary.

ISLANDS ON THE AIR CONTEST RULES 1995

1. General.

The aim of the contest is to promote contacts between stations in qualifying IOTA island groups and the rest of the world and to encourage expeditions to IOTA islands. UK entrants must be RSGB members, see the general rules for HF contests published in January 1995 Radio Communication.

Note: mainland G/GM/GW = EU005, mainland GI/EI = EU115.

2. When.

1200 UTC Saturday 29th July to 1200 UTC Sunday 30th July 1995.

3. Bands and Modes.

3.5, 7, 14, 21 and 28MHz, CW and SSB. IARU bandplans must be observed, and CW contacts must be made only in the recognised CW ends of the bands. Contest preferred segments must also be observed, i.e. no operation must take place on 3.56-3.6MHz, 3.65-3.7MHz, 14.06-14.125 and 14.3-14.35MHz.

4. Categories.

(a) Single operator. CW only, SSB only or mixed-mode.

(b) Single operator limited. CW only, SSB only or mixed-mode. Operation is limited to 12 hours, and contacts on any THREE bands count for points. Off periods must be clearly marked and must be a minimum of 60 minutes in length.

(c) Multi operator single transmitter. Mixed mode. Only one transmitted signal. Use of packet cluster or other assistance during the contest places the entrant in the multi operator category.

5. Sections.

(a) IOTA Island Stations Stations on an island with an IOTA reference, for example AS007, EU005. This section includes the British Isles. Entrants intending to operate from a location whose IOTA status is not clear are advised to confirm validity by reference to the IOTA directory available from RSGB headquarters. Please indicate on the entry whether the station is permanent or a contest DXpedition, i.e. antennas and equipment installed specifically for the contest.

(b) World (listed by continent) Any station in a location which does not have an IOTA reference.

(c) Short Wave Listener See rule 10. The format of the listings will depend on the number of entries received.

6. Exchange.

Send RS(T) and serial number starting from 001, plus IOTA reference number if applicable. Do not use separate numbering systems for CW and SSB. Stations may be contacted on both CW and SSB on each band. Entrants in section (a) MUST send their IOTA reference as part of each contact.

7. Scoring.

(a) QSO PointsEach contact with an IOTA island counts 15 points. Other contacts count 5 points, except contacts with the entrant's own country or own IOTA reference, which count 2 points.

(b) Multiplier The multiplier is the total of different IOTA references contacted on each band on CW, plus the total of different IOTA references contacted on each band on SSB.

(c) Total Score The score is the total of QSO points on all bands added together, multiplied by the total of multipliers.

8. Logs

UK stations must use a Summary Sheet and RSGB-style log sheets, other entrants may use log sheets in local format, together with a summary and signed declaration that the rules and licence conditions have been complied with. Separate log sheets must be used for each band (but not each mode). Single mode entrants who make contacts on the other mode should submit these separately as checklogs.

Logs must show: Time, Callsign, RST/serial number/IOTA reference sent, RST/serial number/IOTA reference received, multiplier claimed, and QSO points. Entrants are encouraged to submit cross-check ("dupe") sheets and a multiplier list. Logs on computer disk are welcomed, in accordance with RSGB format.

Entries must be postmarked 26 August at the latest, and mailed to the following address:

RSGB IOTA Contest, c/o S. Knowles G3UFY, 77 Bensham Manor Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey, CR7 7AF, England.

IOTA stations must state their location, i.e. island from where they operated, as well as their IOTA reference number. Checklogs from non-entrants are welcome.

9. Penalties.

Points may be deducted, or entrants disqualified, for violation of the rules or the spirit of the contest. This includes refusal by IOTA island stations to make contacts with their own country when requested. Use of a third party to make contacts on a list or net is also against the spirit and may lead to disqualification. Duplicate contacts must be marked as such with no points claimed. Unmarked duplicates will be penalised at ten times the claimed points, and excessive duplicates may cause disqualification.

10. SWL Contest.

Scoring is as for the transmitting contest. Logs must be separate for each band, and show Time, Callsign of station heard, RST/serial number/IOTA reference sent, callsign of station being worked, multiplier claimed, and QSO points. Under "callsign of station being worked", there must be at least two other QSOs before a callsign is repeated, or else ten minutes must have elapsed. If both sides of a QSO can be heard, they can be logged separately for points if appropriate.

11. Awards.

(a) *The IOTA Trophy* (non-returnable) will be presented by the IOTA Committee to the entrant, whether single-operator or amulti-operator group in the IOTA Island Stations Section (DXpedition subsection), with the overall highest checked score, regardless of mode. A trophy will also be awarded to the leading non-DXpedition IOTA entrant, and it is hoped to introduce further trophies as the contest grows.

(b) *The CDXC Geoff Watts Memorial Trophy* (non-returnable) will be presented to the entrant, whether single operator or multi-operator group in the IOTA Islands Stations Section (non-DXpedition subsection) with the overall highest checked score regardless of mode.

(c) *The DX News Sheet Trophy* (retained for one year only) will be presented by the Editor of DX News Sheet to the British entrant operating from a location in the UK (including GD, GJ and GU) with the highest checked score in the single operator SSB category, (Category A). The winner of the IOTA Trophy will not be eligible for this award.

(d) *The David King G3PFS Trophy*, In Memory of Geoff Watts, (retained for one year only) will be presented to the British entrant operating from a location in the UK

(including GD, GJ and GU) with the highest checked score in the single operator SSB category, (Category B). The winner of the IOTA Trophy will not be eligible for this award.

(e) Certificates will be awarded to leading stations in each category and section, and in each continent, according to entry.

12. Note from the IOTA Director.

Amateurs planning to activate an all-time new one for IOTA over the IOTA Contest weekend should, if possible, arrange to commence their operation in the preceding 24 hours to enable the new reference number to be issued before the start of the contest. Once the contest is under way, it will not be possible to issue a new number and, without this, contacts made will not count as island contacts.

Ed: These rules were taken from the UK PacketCluster network, and were also circulated on The Internet. I have added the CDXC Geoff Watts Memorial Trophy, which was not included in the electronically circulated rules. Please publicise this change.

RSGB PREFIX GUIDE

The RSGB Prefix Guide is now available from RSGB HQ. Post paid (airmail where appropriate). Prices are £4.75 UK, £5.75 Europe and £6.75 elsewhere.

Members will remember that CDXC Member Geoff Watts, who sadly became a silent key in 1994, published a series of prefix and zone lists. The information contained in these lists was regarded by many DXers as the definitive source for everything relating to prefixes, countries, zones, and dates. Geoff's son, CDXC member Hedley Watts, gave the records and copyright to the Radio Society of Great Britain. CDXC member John Forward, G3HTA now compiles and maintains the list for publication by the RSGB. John has transferred the records to a PC, and brought them right up to date.

Having purchased a copy of the RSGB Prefix Guide at Picketts Lock, I can thoroughly recommend it. John has put a tremendous amount of effort in researching the complexities of the recent prefix changes, and has produced a reference work of the highest standard which every DXer should have by his/her rig.

The RSGB Prefix Guide contains the following information:

- DXCC Listing by Prefix
- Other prefixes used
- ITU prefix allocation
- Country name
- Unusual prefixes - which DXCC
- What continent
- What CQ zone
- What ITU zone
- Hours + and - relative to UTC
- Latitude and longitude
- Date to count from
- Earlier prefixes
- Previous country name
- Deleted countries
- Russian and CIS countries with prefix listed before & after 1994, together with oblast name
- USA states, CQ/ITU zones and call area
- DXCC additions and deletions update
- Notes

This is clearly the modern definitive work on the subject, and may be obtained from *The Radio Society of Great Britain, Lambda House, Cranborne Road, Hertfordshire, EN6 3JE.* You can't afford to be without it!

9Q ANYONE?

Peter Casier, ON6TT

Just got home from my mission in Goma, Zaire. Here's a quick run down, a more lengthy article is in the making. We'll give a presentation at the Dayton DX forum covering D2, 7Q and 9Q. Looking forward to see you all there.

During my 2 months mission, I made about 12,000 contacts as 4U0ITU, 9Q5TT and 4U9Q. Most of it on phone, but also 700 on RTTY and a couple of hundred on CW . Tried to emphasise on low bands and WARC (800 on 75m, a couple of thousand on 40). Time, security and licensing restrictions did not allow for the planned side trips to 9X (cleaned up by 9X5EE anyway) and 9U (well, just watch CNN).

160m was a sad story for which I feel very guilty. The big vertical John, ON4UN made for my trip worked great, but I had a hard time getting the 4 top-loading wires tuned for 80 CW and 160. For the tuning work, I had to take the vertical down each time, which could only be done during day light. Read: during weekends (as I was working during weekdays daylight). When I finally got it right, the wire in the top fiber section burned right through the fiber. Another weekend later, I managed to repair it, but the first moment I tuned the amp on 160, the trap atop of the vertical burned up. The next weekend I removed the trap, said hell to 160, and removed the top-loading wires for topband. That moved up the point of resonance for 80, leaving only 75m operation possible. Two weekends later, my feeling of guilt got so bad, I took the whole thing down again, and replaced the 2 remaining top-loading wires with one for 80, ending in an insulator, with an extension wire for 160 top-loading to it. Putting a strap over the insulator, I could switch between 80 and 160. That was the last but one weekend. I was active for one night on 160, when the hotel's 40 kW generator hicked up and spit out 400 volts instead of 220v. Bye bye amplifier, and bye bye 160 (spent a lot of time calling CQ with 100 watts on top band, but in vain). The last week, too many power failures limited any decent activity. The last weekend, I found another amp (Tnx to 9Q5FH), which I ran in the WPX test as 9Q5TT and 4U9Q, in-between the frequent power failures. Those made me miss the two big openings to the US. Finally, on Sunday evening, the house generator caught fire, and went definitively QRT, but not before spitting out 400 volts again, and as such blowing up the second amp. Sigh.

Full story to follow, including 'close encounter with a troop of mountain gorillas', 'living between a volcano in eruption, 1,000,000 refugees and a lake spitting out poisonous gas' and '10 ways to get robbed easily in down town Goma'. Oh before I forget it: 9X5EE, Alex, is taking over my duties in Goma, as soon as ON4WW, Mark is taking his place in Kigali. Update: Mark was active as 4U1ITU earlier this week and takes the plane to Kigali tonight. Expect Alex to arrive in 9Q one of the next days. Alex will surely clean up the CW gap I left behind. Alex is coming to Dayton too.

PS: I had no idea a baby could change that much in 2 months time. Lana sends her love to all. Peter, ON6TT. With a bit darker skin, and a lot wiser again.

With thanks to:

YAESU Europe for the FT900/AT and FL7000 on loan

Oklahoma Comm Center for the donation of a Cushcraft R7 (worked great!)

ON4UN, for the low band vertical, and the PK232 on loan

ON5TW, for the antenna tuner on loan

The guys of 'Antenna sans frontieres', or the expat ham club of Goma

Swissair, Sabena, Lufthansa for putting up with me carrying 60 KGs of hand luggage, including the amp-in-a-flight-case, power supply and rig.

BS7H BASHING

Ken Kopp, K0PP

Jeeze guys! I'll wager that NONE of you whiners have ever experienced anything CLOSE to what the BS7H crew just has. They travelled half-way around the world, arriving tired and suffering from jet-lag ... the tropical heat and humidity was smothering because when some of them left home it was 65 degrees and the humidity was 15 percent. They've gone without a bath in soaking tropical heat for days ... the salt that they couldn't wash off their bodies irritated their sunburns, coral scratches and cuts ... the salt in their (wet) shoes made their feet raw, but they had wear them to avoid coral and shell cuts ... Sweat ran off their heads, into their eyes, across the inside of their glasses and dripped from their noses onto the already-damp log sheets ... (they WERE using pencils weren't they?) ... they slept (or tried to) on (not IN) sweat-soaked, stinking bedding that they may have had to share with someone else ... that damp bed was on a rolling boat that smelled of mildew, fuel and God-only-knows-what-else ... and maybe some were prone to seasickness ... Their meals were irregular and (most likely) poor ... remember, armies (and DXpeditioners) march on their stomachs ... they'd have given almost anything for a glass of their Lady's iced tea or ANYTHING that's even cool, let alone cold ... maybe they missed her (but would NEVER admit THAT to the guys) ... they were a bit homesick, morale may have been low and tempers high ... remember, it was a full moon ... they were exhausted from the rolling sea trip, landing and rushing to get set up ... after all, the DESERVING were waiting in their air-conditioned shacks, sitting in their ergonomic chairs ... they'd not had time (and wouldn't be able) to catch up on their sleep ... They may have been discouraged because conditions seemed poor and they'd wanted to hand out a "new one" to ALL the DESERVING ... all of their amps had died and they had only (room for) trap verticals to start with ... Some of YOU would have given up and left for home by then. And there was the asinine behaviour of the lids they heard on their transmitting frequency ... some say it rivalled the days of Bouvet ... There will be the braying of the "I didn't work'em so it shouldn't be a country" herd they'll hear about when they get home. If the above sounds like I've been there ... I have. How dare you complain because they didn't do what YOU thought they should? If you DID work them, you don't deserve the fruits of THEIR efforts for you ... a QSL. If they were me, you might even vanish from the log.

BS7H: SOME OBSERVATIONS.

UK PacketCluster Network

I eventually worked him on Thurs. at 1842 z on 20m after many hours of trying on that and the previous day. When one has prolonged difficulty getting that "rare one" you try to analyse possible reasons:- poor condx., selective propagation, inept operators and bad luck!! Condx. were better that expected with long hours of excellent copy on 20m here in the UK. Their 'phone operating was joy to hear and an example to many others; clear, courteous, unambiguous and every station worked was left knowing he really was in the log. Anyway, before I did get through, my impressions were that east, central and southern Eu. were favoured by the propagation. I heard few Gs getting through ..... I hope plenty did! Listening again on Fri., when they were working Europe almost exclusively, I thought I would record who were actually getting through on 20m. During a peak hour's operating in the late afternoon-early evening this is what I recorded (they were S7+ for the whole time). DL 27; I 18; OH 12; EA 7; SM 6; SP 6; OZ 4; PA 4; W 4; Gs 4, OK 3; YU 3; HA 2; HB9 2; LA 2; F 2, others + some prefixes missed 18 = 123 Best of luck, Roger, G3NLY

DXPEDITION FUNDING

Peter Casier, ON6TT

Ed: This was taken from The Internet via the UK PacketCluster Network, and attempts to answer questions about raising funding.

Let me start by saying that even for major expeditions (top 10 most wanted), you are never able to recover 100%, not even 50%, often not even 20% of your cost. Most of the DX clubs are very helpful, but their financial resources are limited. With the exception of the real big foundations like NCDXF, the average donation from one of the major clubs is between US$500 and US$1000 (again for bigger expeditions with total costs often in the area of US$70,000 and more). There is a trend to try raising sponsoring in the commercial world (non-ham related business), but this is very very difficult, and negotiating a deal consumes a lot of time. But it *is* possible.

Another source of income are the donations by individuals before and after (with the QSL). Often this amount is quite significant and can be more than all donations from clubs together! Another aspect is getting the radio material together. Luckily, we can often count on major manufacturers for that, who LEND us their equipment.

Most of the funding, though, still comes from the individual operators. For a $70,000 trip, with 10 ops, count on $5000-$6000 per op (plus their plane tickets). 3Y0PI was $10,000 cash per person at risk up front, plus polar personal gear, plus plane tickets, plus, plus,... Let me come back to the questions asked:

"Forgive me if this is a stupid question." It is not. At every presentation I'm asked: *"Who pays all of this?" "What does it take to receive funding from some of the DXpedition sponsors like INDEXA and NCDXF?" "Are there criterion that must be met before you are considered eligible to apply?"*

Depends which club. A good proposal is your starting point: Prove that:

- The location is wanted (be it for a certain continent, or a certain mode e g)
- You are the guy or have the team who can do it (knowledge, reputation, skills)
- You have the equipment, logistics, transportation to do it

"I know that they're not going to pay for somebody's vacation to Barbados or something like that, but supposing, for sake of argument, I wanted to go to KH4 (now barren) or T31. Does a country have to be on the top ten Most Wanted to qualify for funding?"

Most of the time, top 20, yes. You might strike lucky though. E.g. KH4 is pretty well wanted in Europe, so in your fund raising, concentrate on the European clubs. (and then, while you are on KH4, concentrate on working EU as well, hi). AH1A was an example of a non-top 10 DXpedition (world-wide), but KH1 was #2 for EU and top 10 for the US East Coast

"Along those lines, roughly how much (in percent) does this type of funding cover the financial needs of an expedition? I suspect nowhere near 100%."

If we are talking major expeditions to difficult to access places, involving chartering a boat, plane, etc. sponsoring in cash covers around 10%-20% max. Add to that the fact that you can get radio equipment on loan.

"I'm young, and there will always be time for DXpeditions later in life when I'm

making more money, but I've been curious about this for a long time."

That is always the dilemma isn't it: when you are young, and have the spirit and the guts to do it, you do not have the money. Once you are older, you have the money but then often you are limited by family obligations, or you just do not want to take the risk anymore. Though you have some of us who stay crazy for their whole life ;-). My advice would be (for what it is worth): - get the 3Y0PI book. There is quite a lot of background info on what is involved in setting up a DXpedition. - start small, with low cost expeditions, and build up a reputation. - join a team on a major expedition. There are always some international expeditions looking for ops. Get experience in that but be prepared to pay. Often the cost is around US$5000. Why not join the Easter Island/SyG project of KK6EK and group? Will give you a good taste and you will be in the company of good ops, great people!

BUT, to finish in a positive note: a successful expedition is very rewarding, both in terms of radio experience, making friends, and going to places where only a few people have ever gone before.

FJL TO BECOME RARE?

UK PacketCluster Network

From NT2X: Slava, RX1OX/FJL, operating from Franz Joseph Land, told me of possible shutdown of the polar base there, due to budget constraints. It can happen within the next several months, and if it does, then all personnel will be removed to the mainland.

This would mean that FJL will no longer be represented on the air. Currently active from FJL are R1FJL (ex 4K2MAL) and RX1OX/FJL.

GB7YDX DX CONVENTION & AGM

May 13th 1995

The GB7YDX AGM & DX Convention will be held on Saturday 13th May in the Ebor Suite of the Post House Hotel, Tadcaster Road, York. The Post House is located on the A64 York to Leeds road, and is about 1.5m from the city centre. The hotel is very close to Knavesmire and York Race Course.

Programme

13:00 AGM

14:00 How to win VHF Contests, Bob Harrison, Northern Lights Contest Group.

14:45 HF Antennas for DX & Contests, Ron Stone, GW3YDX, Vine Antennas.

15:30 Coffee Break

15:45 SHACKLOG and the IOTA Awards Manager, Alan Jubb, G3PMR. Author of SHACKLOG.

16:30 Buffet Meal

17:00 Multi-multi on an African Rooftop, Roger Western, G3SXW, 9G5AA Contest Group.

18:00 Convention wrap-up, Neil Smith, G4DBN, GB7YDX SysOp and YCSG Chairman.

There will be a raffle with some excellent prizes. The fun continues during the evening in the hotel bar (try the 'Black Sheep' bitter!). If there is sufficient demand, there will be an informal DX dinner in the hotel restaurant in the evening.

All DXers are welcome. To book, please send your remittance (£12.50 for Convention & Buffet, £5.00 Convention only), to YCSG Treasurer, G3PSM:

Colin Thomas, 36 Chelwood Crescent, Leeds, LS8 2AO, Tel 0113 266 6317.

ANOTHER BUSINESS TRIP TO W6.

Peter Chadwick, G3RZP

Ed: This was sent to me in January, but got lost somewhere in the Internet.

As I was going to be in San Jose for the week, I got hold of AA6MC (*Ed Ex CDXC Secretary G0MFO*), Dick Dievendorff, on Internet before I went out, so on the Saturday (Jan 7th) evening that I arrived, Dick and Bob, N6TV, met me at the airport and we went out to dinner. Joined by Dave W6QHS, his wife Barb, KK6QE, and Dick's wife.

Dick is interested in rejoining CDXC, and will be contacting someone to find out what the sub. would be for a W6. Dick sends his 73 to everyone at CDXC.

The rain this week had to be seen to be believed. By the end of the week, 34 California counties were 'Federal Disaster Areas', and the City of San Jose was in an official 'State of Emergency' on the Monday night and Tuesday. The Guadeloupe river was backing up through the storm drains into Dick's street: Fortunately, it didn't get high enough to cause damage to his property.

Dick is having tower problems. He has an 89 foot unguyed crank up tower, with a 6 element for 20, 2 (or is it 3?) ele on 40 and interleaved beams for the other HF bands. Very impressive, but the lot size isn't too big, and at least one of the neighbours is complaining. The City of San Jose have not had strict ordinances on towers - building permits are apparently not necessarily providing the permission, so Dick has had to hire a lawyer. He says, by the way, that the ARRL have been able to help no end with PRB1 case information and so on. (*Ed: Peter now reports that this problem has now been resolved*)

The tower is massive - about 3 foot a side at the base. Interestingly, although ham gear is generally much cheaper in the US, this doesn't apply to towers. Towers about equivalent to a Versatower (and there are few with the wind/load ratings of a Versatower) are about 2 to 3 times the equivalent UK price.

On the Monday, I went to the Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association meeting - to find that the speaker (K6RQ) was on the subject of DX! He was showing his QSL cards, and surprise, surprise, one was from GB4MGG, the call we use from here on JOTA. What the odds are on that, I wouldn't like to guess!

Friday 13th was the meeting of the Northern California DX Club in San Mateo, to which I went with Dick and N6TV. They hadn't got a speaker, which I hadn't realised, and I got called upon to make an address to them. It was very enjoyable to see many well known callsigns: unfortunately, the weather prevented W6QHS and wife, and Jim, W6CF, from getting there - the mud slides on Highway 17 were leading to the road getting shut every so often, and in the event, they would not have been able to get home. Of course, the result of this is that I've missed South Georgia! Pity, 'cos I need it on CW, but at least it isn't an all time new one that I've missed.

Gossip at the North Cal DX club was that there could be an expedition to KH7 this year, but there was nothing definite. There should be an expedition to T30 this year as well - that's apparently somewhat more definite.

Mail rates have gone up in the US - internal mail is now 32c: I don't know what the International Air Mail has gone up to yet - it used to be 50c. (*Ed: See March Newsletter*)

I will be at Visalia in April, followed by Dayton the weekend after. That trip is holiday! The change of date for Dayton from

1996 is annoying, insofar as you need double the number of frequent flyer miles!

There's a major rebuild in progress at G3RZP. The remote ATUs and antenna switching/selection are being tidied up from the current rather Heath Robinson affair. At the tower base, there is a 6 by 4 shed with my father's old 19 inch rack in it. The ATU for 160/80/40 serves for the shunt fed tower and the 80m dipole, and is remote controlled, as is the antenna selection. ATU is a 10-1/2inch panel, selection is 7-1/2 inch panel, and the digital electronics, power supplies and controls are in a 3-1/2 inch panel. the FT102 provides band switching information (now - it didn't originally) which is used with antenna selection info to give a 4 bit number. So I only need one coax to the tower base - saving a lot of coax, since the tower is 70 feet away. This coax is LDF4-50 Heliax, with measured loss of 0.3dB on 10, so the total 10 metre losses will be down about 1-1/2dB. Every bit helps! For shunt feeding towers, I strongly recommend going to the folded unipole approach. Run three 14 swg wires to the top of the tower, spacing then about 8 inches apart to make them effectively a large conductor. By running them right to the top, the folding helps raise the radiation resistance, thus reducing the effect of ground losses. Note, though that although I get away without radials in thick wet heavy blue clay, they are recommended. It works well enough for K1DG to describe it as being 'loud on the East coast!' on 160.

Guess that's about all the news. Now I haven't got any RSGB business to worry about, I'm actually doing ham radio in between business trips, albeit mainly construction at the moment.

EU-167 PESSEGUEIRO ISLAND DXPEDITION

Jose Sa CT1EEB

After the first failure in trying to land on Pessegueiro Island by Luis Gomes CT1ESO and I due to bad weather and local fishermen's' refusal in getting close to the Island by boat, a new attempt had to be tried as close in time as possible. Now, it was just a question of honour in keeping the promise of getting that IOTA Spot on the Air for all those that were still looking for it.

For me, it was very hard to get down to the South again, at least for a couple of months, for a DXpedition due to professional reasons. So, Luis CT1ESO decided to go not too long after we had been there for the first time. The right weekend seemed to be the 18 and 19th March when the weather and solar flux forecasts looked OK, so, good band openings were to be expected. Of course, as usual, the aid of the local fishermen in carrying all equipment to the Island was very much different from all forecasts. Co-operation from the locals is something that one cannot count on to cross to the island - even if you offer them a big amount of cash. I don't think they enjoy working too much, Hi!

So, the only way to get to the other side was swimming!!! Being a former Marine, this wasn't a problem to Luis, even though he had to swim carrying a small rubber boat with all the station set-up. The real problem began with the sea water temperature being too cold and by a small hole in the rubber boat letting the water inside. Fortunately, the radio was well protected. Not so lucky with the 20 metre band vertical antenna. He lost it in the sea on his way back when the sea waves turned the boat around.....

Nevertheless, the goal was achieved, not counting on small problems on the antenna (because of a loose screw) and the battery when on the Island. CT1ESO/p was a new one for many - making 535 deserving people very happy. t least it didn't rain!!!

See you from the Island of Savana in Cuba this coming May...

Ed: Our congratulations to Jose CT1ESO - How about trying Rockall next!

ZL8 KERMADEC DXPEDITION

Barry Fletcher ZS1FJ/G4MFW

The purpose of this newsletter is to inform DXers of the extreme difficulty I have had to work under in organising what has turned out to be a one-man DXpedition!

I read in DX News recently that a trip to Kermadec should be on the cards because it has none of the inherent problems associated with trips to some of the other remote DXpedition islands. While it certainly does not have difficulties such as the braving of Antarctic seas and the very huge amounts of finance required, it is easier to get approval to visit some of these places than to visit Kermadec. I am also planning other trips to very remote places in the next year or two. This is my third DXpedition to the Pacific.

Getting approval for this DXpedition started 9 months ago. When I received the licence I thought that was it! But I soon discovered that the authorities had BANNED ham radio from the island. This may have been due to the unfortunate circumstances of 11 years ago, the date of the last activation, when the boat sank outside the island, through no fault of the DXpeditioners. I needed to obtain permission to land there and to stay for any period of time, and permission also to operate on the island. These approvals involved three separate applications to different bodies. We had planned to take a scientific group along to this highly protected environmental preserve. One member has been commissioned to write a book on BIRDS OF THE ANTARCTIC AND OTHER RARE ISLANDS. Unfortunately, I have to pay for their costs. I leave it to readers' imagination to guess why! I had to announce the cancellation of the trip in January when it appeared that there was little chance of success. The skipper of the vessel "Old Glory" was also working away for us in the background. Phil is a New Zealander and his family have also been involved in nature conservation, as I have in South Africa. Phil had taken us to VR6 in the past.

A few weeks ago it appeared that there was some light at the end of the tunnel! And then we learnt in a fax from Phil that approval had been granted to the scientific expedition. The authorities apparently appreciated that the lack of communications (there is no transportation of any type nor telephone links) would be a problem, and granted limited permission to operate. Only one operator (me) can operate the rigs for several hours a day. Then I was supposed to leave the island each day but that is now regarded as impossible and dangerous due to the seas. The island is situated at the edge of the Kermadec Trench which is apparently up to 11,000 metres deep, deeper than Mount Everest is high and the deepest place on earth. They apparently will not regard this as a precedent. We hope to set such a good example that it will put hams in a good light for the future but getting approval will be difficult.

I am flying to Auckland on May 27th, taking with me the antennas, an A3S beam and wire antennas to work the other bands, possibly an R7 vertical and Icom rigs and amplifier. Other equipment will be secured in Auckland.

I have not obtained any sponsored equipment or QSL cards etc., I am using my own equipment but any financial help will be appreciated and, if it is more than I need, I shall return it. I will send the A3S on to VR6 to the Pitcairn club there as they do not have a decent antenna nor the resources to buy one. I will operate on the 14195 mostly but up to IOTA 14260 occasionally and on 21295, 7080, 3798 mostly split and listening up. I will use calculated propagation times but if any readers have first hand experience of the times they regard as good, they can fax me in Cape Town on international code 27 (21) 418 2371 as this type of information is URGENTLY appreciated. I am sorry

about CW and RTTY. I will I hope provide a video if that is of interest, probably about 1 hour. Once again some feedback will be appreciated.

My thanks for all the interest and support and of course particular thanks to the Department of Conservation in New Zealand!

Barry ZS1FJ/G4MFW

PS The callsign will be G4MFW/ZL8 with all cards to ZS1FJ though the QSLing will be done from the US.

Ed: See letter from Barry. Barry has also written thanking us and the RSGB DXpedition fund for our donation. He expects to arrive on the Kermadecs on May 5th and will do his best to work as many UK hams as possible.

HAVING A SIMPLE RUSSIAN QSO.

Stan Sharred, G4JGV

As Alan was pleading for submissions, I thought that I'd inflict this upon you!

Many ex-USSR states are active, and I would guess that some of the active stations do not speak English. Some of the more rare states probably work in Russian to escape the pile-ups! Working them in their own tongue may notch up a few new ones for you - it certainly has for me.

Russian Phonetics

The Russian phonetic alphabet (shown below) is quite different to ours. Please learn and use with caution! If you use these, it may be assumed that you 'speaka da lingo!'

A	Anna, Anton
B	Borees
C	Tsentr
D	Deema, Dmeetree
E	Yelena
F	Fyodor ('yo' as in 'your)
G	Galeena, Grigoree
H	Hareeton
I	eevan Jeevan kratkee
K	Kostya, kilovat
L	Looba, Layonid
M	Mareeya
N	Nikoleye (eye as in eyeball)
O	Olga
P	Pavel
Q	shooka
R	Raman, Radeeo
S	Sergay (hard G)
T	Tamara
U	oolyana
V	*ook
W	Vasilee
X	Markee zhak, Znak
Y	eegrek
Z	Zoya, zenoeeda

As regards pronounciation, please note the following

1. Russian is a stressed language,. Stress should be placed on the sounds shown in bold/underline.
2. The letter 'O' is pronounced as 'Ore'
3. 'G' is always hard.
4. The sound denoted by * is pronounced as the 's' in 'pleasure'

Russian Numbers.

0 nol
1 adeen
2 dva
3 tree
4 chiteeree
5 pyat
6 shest
7 syem
8 vosim
9 dyevet

Learning the Alphabet and Numbers.

Probably the best way of learning these is to listen to them being used. Listen on 160m,

80m (around 3600-3670KHz), and frequently around 14180KHz.

Once you have heard and practised them, try slipping them in when working a Russian station in English.

Feeling Reckless? Have a QSO!

If you are feeling totally reckless, throw caution to the wind and try a simple QSO. It might be prudent to listen to a few QSOs first!

1. Listen for a station calling CQ. The format for this is 'fsem fsem fsem zyess {callsign}'.

2. Call him! Use {his call phonetics} zdyess {your call phonetics} preeyom.

3. Use these phrases:

Zdrastvweetye (Hello)
Minya zavoot Stan (My name is Stan)
Gorad Birmingham (Qth Birmingham)
Vam Raport 59 (The report to you is 59)
pa*alsta meekrafon vam (the mike to you please)

Other useful phrases are:

73 = syemdeesat tree
Goodbye = dosveedanya
QSL via the bureau = QSL (pronounced koo-ess-ell) cherez byooro
Thanks for the QSO = Spaseeba za QSO

Oh, one other extremely useful phrase: eezveeneetye pa*alsta, ya nye gavareeyoo pa rooskee (Excuse me please, I don't speak Russian)!

CONGRATULATIONS....

.... to CDXC Chairman, G3NUG, who has been awarded the RSGB Certificate in Recognition of Meritorious Service to Amateur Radio, in respect of his work for the 1994 International HF and IOTA Convention. Regarding this award, Neville said "I was really delighted to receive this certificate. Chairing the 1994 Convention Organising Committee was a real challenge and hard work, but I was delighted with the outcome. Of course much of the credit must go to the Organising Committee, the lecturers and everyone else involved".

.... to CDXC member Gregg Calkin, ON9CCQ/G4RTO, who has just received his fourth 5 band DXCC and now holds this prestigious award with the calls CN8AK, VE3JGC/W4, VE3JGC, and G4RTO. For the G4RTO 5BDXCC, Gregg used just vertical and wire antennas (i.e. no beam) and no linear. It took just three years to complete - just about the same as the others. *Tnx DXNS.*

SIZE RULE FOR DXCC

UK PacketCluster Network

From ARRL Headquarters Newington CT April 20, 1995

To all radio amateurs

Minimum-Size Rule Adopted for DXCC

The ARRL Awards Committee voted 5 to 2 to accept a modified ARRL DX Advisory Committee (DXAC) recommendation to add a minimum-size rule to Point 2 (Separation by water) of the Countries List Criteria in the DXCC rules.

This change adds the following paragraphs to the existing rules under Point 2

"(c) An island is defined as a naturally formed area of land surrounded by water, the surface of which is above water at high tide. Rocks which cannot sustain human habitation shall not be considered for DXCC country status.

(d) An island must meet or exceed size standards. To be eligible for consideration, the island must be visible, and named, on a

chart with a scale of not less than 1:1,000,000. Charts used must be from recognised national mapping agencies. The island must consist of a single unbroken piece of land not less than 10,000 square feet in area, which is above water at high tide. The area requirements shall be demonstrated by the chart."

HONOR ROLL CHASER'S TABLE

At the suggestion of Bren, G4DYO, it has been decided that we will run an Honor Roll chasers table in the Newsletter. The intent is for those aspiring to achieve Honor Roll status to see how they are doing relative to their peers, with the hope that the competitive element will spur people on and achieve Honor Roll earlier.

The table will be published every other issue, i.e. three times per year. Rules are as follows:

- Open to all CDXC members
- Also open to UK non members
- Also open to those who have already achieved HR status
- Qualifying number: 250 current DXCC countries confirmed in one or more of the categories
- Categories are CW, SSB and Mixed, with both current and current plus deleted scores being shown
- UK non members will be shown one time only. They will be encouraged to join CDXC, and will be deleted from future tables if they remain a non-member.
- Entries to be sent to the Newsletter Editor by the usual publication deadline.
- The table will be published in the July, November and March issues of the Newsletter.

The table will be published in the following format. Entries should be made in the same format. In this table *Current* is the current *confirmed* score for current DXCC countries, and *Total* is the sum of the confirmed scores for current and deleted DXCC countries.

CALL	CW		SSB		MIXED	
	Current	Total	Current	Total	Current	Total

The position in the table will be governed by the highest *current* score in the mixed category. Stations only operating on a single mode should duplicate their score for that mode in the mixed category. In the case of equal scores, the position will be decided on the basis of the total score.

Bren, G4DYO, Editor of the RSGB DX News Sheet has kindly offered to provide a certificate for those making the transition to Honor Roll status.

The CDXC Committee hopes that this initiative will encouraged DXers who are struggling to make Honor Roll to keep going. We also encourage those who have made it to HR, or have worked them all, to send entries.

As Newsletter Editor, if I find that the entry figure of 250 is too low, and is resulting in a mass of entries, I reserve the right in specific issues of the Newsletter to tailor the number of entries in the list to the available space.

Finally, if you are making the effort to write in with an entry, why not also include something in addition for publication in the Newsletter?

Remember - the deadline for entry in the first publication of the table is June 7th.

ADDITIONS & AMENDMENTS TO IOTA DIRECTORY (1995)

EU-167	CT	BAIXO ALENTEJO PROVINCE group (=PESSEGUEIRO)
EU-168	TF	ICELAND'S coastal islands
EU-169	ZA	ADRIATIC SEA COAST group
AF-073	3V	QERQENAH IS
AF-074	5H	LINDI/MTWARA REGION group (include FANJOVE,KILWA,NYUNI,SONGO SONGO)
AF-075	5H	DAR ES SALAAM/PWANI REGION group (include BOYDU,etc)
AN-018	various	ALEXANDER ISLAND
AS-118	9K	PERSIAN GULF group
AS-119	A4	MUSANDAM PENINSULA group (include AL GHANAM,MUSANDAM,QUOIN IS,SALAMI,etc)
NA-200	XE3	QUINTANA ROO STATE SOUTH group
NA-201	CO9	JARDINES DE LA REINA ARCHIPELAGO
NA-202	HP2	COLON/VERAGUAS NORTH PROVINCE group
OC-202	DU4	CALAGUA IS
OC-203	ZL3,4	SOUTH ISLAND'S coastal islands
OC-204	YB4	ENGGANO ISLAND
OC-205	P2	WOODLARK group
SA-073	OA5	ICA DEPARTMENT group
SA-074	OA3	ANCASH DEPARTMENT group
SA-075	OA2	LA LIBERTAD DEPARTMENT group
SA-076	OA1	TUMBES/PIURA/LAMBAYEQUE DEPARTMENT group
SA-077	PY1	RIO DE JANEIRO STATE EAST group
SA-078	HK1	SUCRE/CORDOBA DIVISION group
SA-079	PY1	RIO DE JANEIRO STATE CENTRE group
SA-080	PY6	BAHIA STATE CENTRE group

1994 IOTA CONTEST RESULTS

The 1994 IOTA Contest was the second IOTA Contest of modern times, and, as in 1993, was a huge success. Long standing IOTA buffs will remember that the first IOTA Contests were run between 1966 and 1972, and were organised by the late Geoff Watts. Conditions were generally poorer in 1994 than in 1993, and there were some rather spectacular storms in Northern Europe which didn't help with the QRN levels! The contest has clearly caught the imagination of contesters world wide, and one would expect it to grow into a major international contest.

AWARD WINNERS

The *CDXC Geoff Watts Memorial Trophy*, awarded to the highest non DXpedition Island station, was won by the GW8GT Contest Group. Ops were G4IFB, GW3KYA, GW4JBQ, G4VXE, G3SQX, GW6ZVQ, GW0MAW.

The *IOTA Trophy*, awarded by the IOTA Committee to the highest scoring single or multi operator island station went to CS5C, operating from Culatra Island, EU-145. The runners up were CDXC members G3OZF/G4JGV operating GJ3OZF from Les Minquiers, EU-099. Congratulations to Don and Steve on this achievement.

The *RSGB IXNS Trophy* for the leading UK single operator SSB station was won by CDXC President Roger Balister, G3KMA. Congratulations Roger.

The David King (G3PFS) trophy, which is also awarded in memory of Geoff Watts, is awarded to the leading British station in the 12 hour section, and this year goes to GW0ARK.

The *Portuguese DX Group trophy* for the leading non island station who is also a non IOTA member went to LZ1KDP. Operators were LZ3SM, LZ1IM, and LZ-F-195.

RESULTS - ISLAND SECTIONS

MULTI OPERATOR ISLAND

POSN	CALL	REF	QSOs	MULT	SCORE
1	CS5C	EU-145	2161	183	2776842
2	GJ3OZF	EU-099	1765	179	2191318
3	GW5LP/P	EU-124	1628	175	1933925
4	GW8GT	EU-005	1583	187	1819136
5	CT3EE	AF-014	1806	119	1479765
6	EJ1D	EU-121	1651	140	1445220
7	GW4VEQ/P	EU-106	1771	127	1393063
8	F5LRC/P	EU-064	1630	96	1020576
9	SK7DX	EU-138	1108	102	824568
10	DL0HRO/P	EU-129	990	97	691707
11	CQ2I	EU-150	1121	78	604500
12	ED1ONS	EU-080	1213	72	583488
13	GM3USL/P	EU-123	909	81	451332
14	OZ4HAM	EU-030	643	83	418818
15	DJ0MW/P	EU-128	716	77	395934
16	IT9HLC/IH9	AF-018	1039	50	330950
17	GW0SDX/P	EU-124	481	91	306306
18	EJ4GK	EU-006	732	52	265928
19	OH5AD	EU-140	819	50	262500
20	G3XMZ	EU-005	499	79	262122
21	IG9/IT9KWF	AF-019	790	54	234792
22	IL4/IK4HPU/HLU	EU-155	699	53	234154
23	G4RFR	EU-005	348	78	201942
24	TM7I	EU-094	444	49	151312
25	EJ5CRC	EU-121	311	51	139689
26	W4/XE1L	NA-034	656	47	123751
27	SO1DIG/P	EU-132	288	47	115573
28	G4CRA/P	EU-005	418	45	109800
29	G0OYQ	EU-005	339	47	103259
30	WQ5Y/P	NA-092	372	42	72828
31	G0PHN	EU-005	162	52	67392
32	VE2CQ/P	NA-128	247	31	63023
33	G4OBK	EU-005	63	55	48510
34	AB5EA	NA-143	329	37	39960
35	N2US/1M3	NA-139	304	27	37827
36	GI4GTY/P	EU-122	124	23	20562
37	G2XV	EU-005	16	3	291

SINGLE OP CW 12H ISLAND

POSN	CALL	REF	QSOs	MULT	SCORE
1	DL3KUR	EU-057	500	40	141680
2	OH6NVT	EU-101	310	47	122482
3	G4BUO	EU-005	258	53	98527
4	VP2EP	NA-022	456	32	97760
5	V85BG	OC-088	460	26	96330
6	W7SW/IL7	EU-050	605	22	89270
7	G4PZQ	EU-005	215	46	71300
8	G3RSD	EU-005	213	41	65231
9	DL5KUD	EU-057	167	45	64800
10	LA7DHA	EU-076	309	32	59488
11	GM3CFS	EU-005	176	38	46968
12	EA6/F6GIN	EU-004	300	26	41900
13	JA2KVB	AS-007	138	39	41067
14	EI6GF	EU-115	147	40	40480
15	JH4RHF	AS-007	231	24	35184
16	R1FJL	EU-019	264	20	34540
17	OZ8SW	EU-029	208	21	32277
18	SM7GCZ	EU-137	75	30	24750
19	G0DEZ	EU-005	132	26	23608
20	G5MY	EU-005	74	30	21300
21	UA0KAH	AS-038	163	17	20689
22	G3GMM	EU-005	40	17	6290
23	JA1GTF	AS-007	16	12	2184
24	UA0KDS	AS-038	14	8	936
25	G4VPF	EU-005	34	3	600
26	JL3SBE	AS-007	11	5	460
27	SM0CNS	EU-084	3	2	70

SINGLE OP MIXED ISLAND

POSN	CALL	REF	QSO's	MULT	SCORE
1	OH1BBF	EU-096	1093	100	813800
2	DL8OBC/P	EU-127	776	83	430106
3	JF1SEK	AS-007	574	83	318139
4	SM4DHF/2	EU-135	599	63	285705
5	EI4DW	EU-115	459	70	223020
6	VE1JS	NA-127	542	63	217035
7	OZ5MJ	EU-029	285	67	164954
8	G3YEC	EU-005	158	78	121524
9	N6HR/7	NA-065	264	24	22488

SINGLE OP MIXED ISLAND 12H

POSN	CALL	REF	QSO's	MULT	SCORE
1	F9IE/P	EU-064	883	84	526176
2	9A/DL5ARX	EU-136	817	79	521321
3	VY2SS	NA-029	930	51	303603
4	5B4WN	AS-004	679	53	236645
5	SV9/SM7PKK	EU-015	609	36	157680
6	SP5PB/1	EU-129	331	52	138632
7	OH6MIL	EU-101	285	39	83382
8	RA0FU	AS-018	330	31	79732
9	G6QQ	EU-005	133	61	75640
10	G4WYG	EU-005	190	46	64170
11	EI7GY	EU-115	111	40	33280
12	G4MVA	EU-005	58	42	30450
13	ZL2VS	OC-036	92	27	22680
14	WA3WJD	NA-139	92	30	21180
15	G2BLA	EU-005	90	28	20916
16	JN3SAC	AS-007	97	18	12510
17	OZ4FF	EU-030	109	12	12480
18	JE1GWO	AS-007	15	14	3150
19	VP9MZ	NA-005	43	6	1650
20	TK/IK2GWH	EU-014	35	4	860
21	CT1EPV/P	EU-145	10	10	200
22	JK2VOC	AS-007	9	2	124

SINGLE OP SSB ISLAND

POSN	CALL	REF	QSO's	MULT	SCORE
1	V73C	OC-028	1373	94	949306
2	G3KMA	EU-005	681	143	720005
3	JR5JAQ	AS-076	733	110	524150
4	AA1BU/KP2	NA-106	708	89	384925
5	G3XSV/P	EU-120	810	66	319704
6	DU1SAN	OC-042	298	57	142956
7	DL2BBR	EU-047	378	46	117392
8	IS0LLJ	EU-024	206	59	106495
9	OH1LU/P	EU-096	233	56	82264
10	KN6OU	NA-187	254	32	30496

SINGLE OP CW ISLANDS

POSN	CALL	REF	QSO's	MULT	SCORE
1	RZ1OA/A	EU-153	692	74	364080
2	EA6ZY	EU-004	691	40	220800
3	G3SWH	EU-005	267	59	113575
4	SM0NJO	EU-084	315	33	81873
5	G3GLL	EU-005	218	52	75973
6	G3ESF	EU-005	180	51	75072
7	FM5CW	NA-107	283	21	41580
8	SK3BP	EU0-87	315	15	33750
9	LA8LA	EU-036	101	27	24435
10	G3TXF	EU-005	85	26	16510
11	IT9DEC	EU-025	220	11	14971

SINGLE OP SSB ISLAND 12H

POSN	CALL	REF	QSO's	MULT	SCORE
1	V85PB	OC-088	715	70	395500
2	GW0ARK	EU-005	577	65	236275
3	GW0ANA	EU-005	376	45	106200
4	BV2CD/7	AS-020	133	133	97888
5	OZ1ACB	EU-029	323	38	94962
6	G3PFS	EU-005	239	52	88244
7	VE3ZZ/PA	EU-146	256	42	75180
8	EA8CAL	AF-004	251	33	59576
9	9H1DE	EU-023	184	31	49879
10	G4JFS	EU-005	94	48	46272
11	AK1L	NA-055	422	25	44700
12	G4IUF	EU-005	111	44	44088
13	JA7BEW	AS-007	251	27	42309
14	EA8BWW	AF-004	262	19	33269
15	G0KJW/M	EU-120	172	28	31164
16	GW0MHK	EU-124	90	38	30704
17	G3YCH	EU-005	48	34	19890
18	EA6JN	EU-004	58	27	16740
19	IT9ESZ	EU-025	40	31	15407
20	DU1SSR	OC-042	47	21	10269
21	8P6CV	NA-021	58	10	4500
22	VE7XO	NA-036	27	15	4380
23	OH1LEG	EU-096	105	5	3095
24	IT9STX	EU-025	16	8	1360
25	JR2THL	AS-007	9	6	630
26	PS7AB	SA-026	10	9	405
27	JH0HON	AS-007	8	4	320
28	OZ1FMO	EU029	8	2	160

RESULTS - WORLD STATIONS (Non- Island)

MULTI OPERATOR WORLD

POSN	CALL	QSOs	MULT	SCORE
1	LZ1KDP	1092	209	1989680
2	DK7NP	1007	213	1650324
3	UT7WZA	774	170	1225530
4	DL5YYM/P	414	74	230362
5	3Z0IOA	170	53	89040
6	OM3KHU	151	56	88032
7	HA5KFV	23	10	2450
8	F6KLO/P	16	9	1503

SINGLE OP CW 12H WORLD

POSN	CALL	QSOs	MULT	SCORE
1	K2SX/1	541	60	235500
2	LY2FN	179	43	73917
3	HA8EK	258	31	68820
4	HA5LZ	117	45	59400
5	DL1ARJ	156	47	57810
6	DL2DWA	103	49	53361
7	IK7NXX	117	48	50352
8	DL1DQY	92	41	35301
9	UN6T	66	38	26980
10	YU70SB	76	28	26040
11	SP4GFG	83	28	25060
12	IV3FSG	68	26	19162
13	F/I3FDZ/P	101	23	18630
14	SP8BAB	66	26	17680
15	SP3FAR	35	31	15035
16	OH2/SM3JBE/P	32	28	12600
17	YU7SF	69	19	11305
18	DL4FDM	29	21	8232
19	OM3CCC	56	17	8109
20	W9HE	51	16	6992
21	OK2KDS	32	18	6840
22	SP5FLA	24	20	6800
23	PA3BEJ	35	15	5925
24	DL5SVB	36	14	5040
25	UU2JA	28	13	3601
26	N4JEO	25	13	2990
27	DL2VLA/P	25	10	2850
28	DJ0SH	25	8	1960
29	SP6FER	13	10	1650
30	DL7URH	11	10	1550
31	UT1ZZ	17	3	345
32	WD0AFD	11	3	255

SINGLE OP MIXED WORLD

POSN	CALL	QSOs	MULT	SCORE
1	YL1XZ	786	167	1220269
2	UA4WGU	885	154	1072610
3	LY1FF	825	121	827277
4	CI3HO	732	145	809390
5	SP5CJQ	433	166	732890
6	S56A	341	109	367657
7	UV9OO	516	81	304155
8	SP6NIC	226	97	226010
9	OK1BLC	226	93	222270
10	KB8O	100	100	209400

11	SP2QCH	227	62	146072
12	RN3QO	247	66	143946
13	DL7VOG	109	62	84444
14	HA1DAE	133	48	66000
15	SP3IOE	101	36	39524
16	RW9QA	153	30	33570
17	IK8TPE	90	30	22080
18	SM3CER	46	34	21080

SINGLE OP SSB WORLD

POSN	CALL	QSOs	MULT	SCORE
1	EA5OL	401	71	276474
2	EA5KB	351	65	216645
3	DL6KY	158	86	147490
4	SP2QCH	227	62	145452
5	CT1BY	205	67	131521
6	ER3ED	318	52	128440
7	EA5GMB	133	77	122815
8	OM3YK	178	65	120250
9	US4LAD	264	51	109191
10	EA5BD	264	41	99056
11	SP8OON	146	56	84672
12	I0FHL	256	41	79622
13	HA7SQ	137	64	67904
14	OM3TEG	115	51	60180
15	SP3IOE	101	36	34704

SINGLE OP CW WORLD

POSN	CALL	QSOs	MULT	SCORE
1	9A2AJ	350	72	229824
2	ER1OA	276	52	118040
3	SP4JWR	100	58	79460
4	UN7ID	162	51	73491
5	SP2BRZ	129	53	70876
6	EA8CM/SM3	183	25	44025
7	OK1FHI	103	36	34992

SINGLE OP SSB 12H WORLD

POSN	CALL	QSOs	MULT	SCORE
1	HK3JJH	456	67	222976
2	HB9BCK	281	79	203978
3	US7W	272	65	168090
4	I2OKW	122	98	161308
5	IK7EOT	256	72	151488
6	ON7ZM	170	63	101745
7	DF4TD/M	142	57	84588
8	EA1EXU	189	44	78716

9	SP9VFQ	121	61	78690
10	UR6F	211	44	73216
11	AA3DI	95	60	67320
12	EA3CZM	87	55	60610
13	I4CSP	77	54	59400
14	F5HNQ	80	55	57200
15	EA3LS	76	55	56485
16	W4BAA	100	56	54488
17	N8II	147	43	54094
18	PT2TF	141	41	53382
19	IK1TWC	79	53	53265
20	LA2IR	95	46	50830
21	YL2PJ	119	41	49815
22	IN3XUG	65	49	47775
23	OH6SU	64	49	45570
24	IK2ULV	107	44	44528
25	OZ1DYI	73	41	35055
26	SP2AHD/A	89	33	30426
27	OH1KAG	93	700	30100
28	HA3GN	70	34	27540
29	RA3LZ	66	34	26860
30	OZ6PI	122	28	26600
31	EA3GHQ	65	35	25375
32	W5ASP	155	30	23700
33	IK2XYI	62	33	23661
34	SP9LKS	61	32	23200
35	SP5DRE	58	30	21900
36	PY2DBU	70	31	21452
37	EA1EDF	40	37	20757
38	DK4IO	45	31	17825
39	EA1ACP	58	26	17082
40	EA1FCG	41	32	16704
41	VE4RP	48	32	16672
42	SP9ZKN/P	59	24	14520
43	SP6JZB	35	29	13920
44	WA1MKS	41	27	13635
45	EA3BT	28	27	10989
46	DL3SWA	64	18	9648
47	EA1CS	26	24	9360
48	IV3TYS	35	23	9269
49	EA5RC	31	21	8022
50	F5HWB	35	21	7770
51	LA2AD	73	23	6279
52	SM5BTX	20	18	5130
53	YO5BQ	23	11	2695
54	RX3RT	16	9	1773

55	KC4BVM	13	8	1240
56	SP6NVK	10	7	980
57	SP6FBD/3	10	5	550
58	XE3LMV	37	6	150
59	SM7HSP	3	3	135

SINGLE OP 12H MIXED WORLD

POSN	CALL	QSOs	MULT	SCORE
1	UR5LCV	346	94	305312
2	HA5AWH	179	85	181815
3	W9DC	157	89	168032
4	OM3CFY	221	68	149872
5	OZ4RT	172	78	145080
6	OM3MB	133	82	134890
7	OK1AD	107	83	121595
8	W3KH	125	79	120238
9	F5NBX	260	54	115128
10	N4UH	226	50	105650
11	OM3EA	98	74	104858
12	SP7GAQ	97	71	97625
13	DL3BRA	105	52	58188
14	OK2BGR	70	58	56550
15	K8JLF	81	54	54324
16	SP8GEY	84	47	53815
17	IK1GPG	68	57	51642
18	OK2BDI	64	52	45968
19	OK2BOB	82	42	45360
20	DL7VSN	55	53	41022
21	IK2WXQ	70	43	34314
22	OK1DH	51	46	33672
23	ON4ON	54	43	31175
24	N8FU	67	38	30172
25	F5TCN	48	44	29524
26	YL2EC	58	39	28080
27	4X6UF	55	39	27885
28	F5YJ	61	34	22270
29	N2LFO	73	29	19314
30	OK1AXB	39	31	16275
31	DL2GBB	48	28	16072
32	UT1WZ	56	24	15696
33	UA4YG	67	28	14280
34	IK3SCB (CLUS)	33	29	12441
35	S59ZZ	36	27	12339
36	OH5PA	30	27	12150
37	NA5F	33	22	8294
38	LU2DPW	16	14	3220

4 UA3-122-1393	399	3653	108	394524
5 UA3-147-412	385	3480	93	323640
6 OH2-836	135	2058	110	226380
7 SP9-3021	313	2839	73	207247
8 UA9-154-800	232	2215	87	192705
9 SP0142/JG	218	1998	57	113886
10 DL312WW	184	1724	59	101716
11 ONL4335	198	1618	62	100316
12 UA3-155-776	138	1547	59	91273
13 ONL 4003	117	1284	65	83460
14 SP-0189-GD	159	2246	25	56150
15 DE1JSH	91	962	45	43290
16 BRS 20249	99	884	43	38012
17 F5JBR/SWL	71	829	39	32331
18 DL3KDC	46	940	34	31960
19 4X4-2788	93	812	30	24360
20 PA-5205	39	570	31	17670
21 4X4-2789	106	770	22	16940
22 UA3-155-75	70	626	21	13146
23 DL/M30-2089779	36	292	36	10512
24 SP4-208	39	389	17	6613
25 F11556	18	230	13	2990

CONWAY REEF - INITIAL FEEDBACK

AB6ZV, Northern Calif. DX Packet System

The following is a fax received Saturday, April 8 from NI6T in Fiji:

The DXpedition team departed Conway Reef at sundown, Monday 3 April, after a smooth transfer of equipment and personnel from the island to the ketch "Te Ni". We arrived at Suva Thursday afternoon, with almost 30,000 QSOs in the log, DESPITE our early disasters and the loss of one operating position of the planned three. The team is extremely satisfied with the performance of all Force 12 antennas although not all were deployed in the anticipated manner.

Pekka and Mats opted not to risk the full 28' mast height, given the high winds and the poor hold of the coarse coral sand, even using mudsill anchors for guy pegs and what coral rocks that could be found for additional weight. 16 ft heights were used, even so the N1217 blew over in a squall - almost on the tent - damaging the 17m reflector's centre section and inflicting minor damage on some element ends. The insulating properties of the coral apparently provided additional height above the underlying saltwater ground. We got excellent performance from the beams despite effective loss of our amplifiers. Looking forward to Visalia with "The rest of the story." 73 de Garry, NI6T/3D2CU

S0/KC0PA

UK PacketCluster Network

I recently worked Tim, 4U/KC0PA. He told me that his previous operation as S0/KC0PA is not approved for DXCC, nor is likely to

be even though, he claims, it was a legal operation.

Therefore he is now using 4U/KC0PA which counts for S0 and will send new documentation to DXCC-desk for this operation. His new QSL-route is VE9RHS. The problem is his actual QTH which is not really in RASD, only claimed by them. Hence his S0 licence was invalid and why using 4U should make any difference I don't know, but he thinks it will.

73 es gd dx de Eric G0CGL

SPRATLY ISLANDS

UK PacketCluster Network

THE TIMES 19th April 1995 Today's TIMES reports that CHINA has laid final claim the the SPRATLY ISLANDS and is prepared to defend them with military means against their principal antagonists the Philippine Islands. Although this group of islands has several claimants in the Far East, China has the muscle and intends to claim them for itself gaining the oil revenue from deposits known to be off-shore. Maybe this is the reason for the latest DXpedition not to take place ? 73s Glynn, G4MVA

EX USSR QSL BUREAUX

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Box 88 C.R.C.R.F Moscow, Russia

Special thanks to Valery Kharchenko, RA6YR for the information

Ed: The above information prompted the following response from GW3CDP:

Speaking with NODIR EY8MM last week and his advice was not to send anymail whatsoever into TADJIKISTAN .

As QSL MANAGER for EY8XX , I am holding all sorts for VLAD including a Transceiver and VFO.

EK4JJ has sent me 5 letters since November but I have only received ONE. And likewise my mail to Armenia.

Byeloruss, UKRAINE, are very good at present.

4K7 Azerbaijan, exchanges from 4K7R (UD6DR) most gets through but the occasional hiccup!!

The other republics I have no personal info or Experience.

73s Denzil

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL RADIO ENTHUSIASTS

Take 5

Twelve months ago, Lynchy was telling you why an extra 1 year warranty really wasn't necessary. Things are more reliable, blah, blah, why don't we all give 10 years, blah, blah and loads more. You still persisted in asking for longer warranties so we think you will approve of this one.

ENTER THE *FIVE YEAR* UK WARRANTY FOR AMATEUR RADIO PRODUCTS

MARTIN LYNCH
G4HKS
THE AMATEUR RADIO EXCHANGE CENTRE

telephone Jennifer on

0181 566 1120

and ask about 'Take 5'

No joke. This is serious. Purchase a new piece of gear from Martin Lynch and he'll offer you the chance of a whole FIVE YEARS WARRANTY, covering parts & labour but excluding "dial lights"; (you mean you can't change a bulb??). In the event of a break down, the warranty also includes COLLECTION & DELIVERY on the U.K. mainland.

Furthermore, buy a USED piece of gear from him and he could offer you a staggering FIFTEEN months warranty. For the cynics amongst you, it does cost. But before you pooh-pooh it, think about this. Three chaps in February bought FT-1000's from him. All three wanted FIVE YEARS. (They probably got it when their wives saw the invoice). For less than the cost of ONE HOURS labour per year, they now have TOTAL PEACE of MIND. That new Dual Band Handie you've just bought could have had FIVE YEARS WARRANTY for under £14 a year. Oh, and another thing. If you sell on your equipment before the FIVE YEARS has expired, the new owner can have the warranty transferred, at no extra cost. That instantly increases the "re-sale" value. Good isn't it?

Think about it next time you buy a new or used piece of kit.

If you would like more details or have purchased equipment from MARTIN LYNCH within the last SIX MONTHS, then hurry. The extended warranty could still be available to you.

Another First From

MARTIN LYNCH, 140-142 Northfield Avenue, Ealing, London W13 9SB